

Trident system may cost an extra 10%

By Peter Heeney

The cost of the Trident missile system intended as the new British nuclear deterrent may be more than a tenth higher than the £4,500m to £5,000m estimated by the Government. MPs have been told during a visit to Washington.

The Commons Select Committee on Defence has summoned senior Ministry of Defence officials to a private meeting at Westminster on Wednesday to comment on the MPs' information.

The MPs' concern arises from a Pentagon review of the United States Government's own plans for Trident which might oblige the United Kingdom to buy the larger, D5, version rather than the smaller C4 missile to which the British Government is committed.

The Ministry's own rough estimate, which has not yet been passed to the select committee, is that a D5 purchase could raise the bill over a 15-year period by between £500m and £700m, an increase of more than a tenth.

Admiral Sir Henry Leach, First Sea Lord, who is chair-

man of the Trident steering group of civil servants, scientists, and serving officers, which is handling the procurement of the new deterrent, has said a team to Washington for liaison with the Pentagon's Trident review body.

Sir Henry's group will need to advise Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, probably during the summer, on whether to opt in principle for the C4 or the D5, even though the United States review of the weapon will not be completed until 1983.

If purchased by the Royal Navy, the D5 would require a more elaborate missile compartment placed inside a larger submarine than would the C4, hence the higher cost. British Shipbuilders will need to know the overall configuration of the submarine needed for the Trident, which is being designed by the British firm Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering.

The C4 is adequate for Britain's needs and the Ministry's dilemma rests on the fact that, should the United States alone

opt for the D5, the advantages of a common support and supply system would be lost in the period from the mid-1990s to the 2020s.

With a thoroughgoing defence review under way in the Ministry in an attempt to cope with severe pressure on the defence budget, an additional expenditure of £500m to £700m, even over a period of years, will be difficult to fund.

To keep its choices open, the Government may decide in the summer to construct larger, faster submarines for the Royal Navy, capable of carrying the D5 which could also, if required, handle the C4 as well. Smaller missile tubes designed for the C4 could not, however, be enlarged at a later date to accommodate the D5.

The United States Navy has recently engaged in public criticism of the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut, for poor management and defective workmanship that have raised the cost and delayed the deployment of the huge 18,000-ton Ohio class submarines intended to carry Trident.

Apart from attacks by geese, survey enumerators meet no hostility

Elderly criticize census forms

By David Nicholson-Lord

Despite complications produced by foot-and-mouth disease, Vietnamese refugees, and the odd predatory goose, Census Day 1981, which will tomorrow provide a statistical "snapshot" of contemporary Britain, promises to be an altogether less controversial affair than its immediate predecessors.

With forms now delivered to Britain's 20 million households, ready to be filled in for collection early next week, the chief criticism has come from groups representing the elderly. Many old people, it is said, are finding the exercise worrying and confusing.

Mr Hugh Faulkner, director of Help The Aged, described the census form yesterday as an "inspiring and somewhat frightening" document. He appealed for neighbours to help old people with the forms.

"One can explain to elderly people that if they read it, they will not be able to fill it in fairly easily. But I think the people who come to collect the forms are going to have to be

very patient and understanding."

Mr Faulkner urged local authorities, churches, and voluntary groups to make a bigger effort to organize advice services for the next census. The elderly should have been given more warning, that the form was to be delivered, perhaps in a leaflet with their pensions. The size of type on the form could also have been larger.

According to Camden Borough Council, in London, its biggest day centre for the elderly has been "swamped" with requests for advice. Nine out of ten elderly householders have sought help.

Mr Paul Knight, an assistant director of social services, said: "They were very anxious and rather put off by the size and scale of the form; but as soon as they gained confidence and got down to it, after talking to staff, they found it was not so difficult after all."

The Asian community is also providing census "surgeries" for householders today and tomorrow. Under the sponsorship of the Confederation of Indian Organizations, for

example, volunteers in London will be manning two stations, in Harrow and Clapham, throughout the day.

One of the few echoes of the furor over confidentiality which vexed the 1971 Census has come from the West Indian Standing Conference, which is to discuss the issue at a delegate meeting tomorrow.

Mr William Irwin, its chairman, said many people were "anxiously worried" that information on country of birth might fall into extremist hands, particularly in view of the insecurity among the black community after the latest references to repatriation by Mr Enoch Powell.

Elsewhere, the main worries have come in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, where census enumerators have had to do battle with foot-and-mouth restrictions, forbidding them from venturing on to farms.

A complex communication system has been developed involving bells at farm gates and probable "proxy" completion of censuses by telephone, but good relations with farmers are said to have been maintained.

Among the few gaps in the 1981 Census will be the Victorian "boat people", 3,000 of whom are scattered in reception camps throughout the country. A few of them, living in huts and doing their own cooking, may be treated as separate households, but most will be dealt with as members of communal establishments, such as hotels, hospitals, prisons and army barracks.

Methods have also changed for recording the homeless. In the past, census supervisors relied on police counts, but estimates this time will be taken from charities.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys urged the nation yesterday to treat Census Day as a "team game" in which everyone had to play their part.

The army of 107,000 enumerators, the office added, had so far met little hostility, apart from two reports of attacks by geese in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The office has made clear that the forms must be filled in. Failure to do so could make the offender liable to a fine up to £50.

Army to lose five generals in month

By Henry Stanhore

Five generals are preparing to retire in the Army's comprehensive turnover, senior officers for many years. The timing of their going is said to be coincidental.

The five are: General Hugh Beach, aged 57, Ma General of the Ordnance General Sir Timothy Creasey, 57, Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Force and previously GOC North Ireland; General Sir Richard Ford, aged 57, Adjutant General; General Sir Pa Howard-Dobson, aged 59, Chief of the Defence Staff (General Staff); General Sir Jack Harman, 60, Northern Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe; and General Sir John Sill, 60, Chief of the Defence Staff (General Staff).

The first three generals: the Army next week to be followed by Sir Patrick Hobdson later this month by Sir Jack Harman early month.

The Army Board held a well dinner in honour of five last month at the 1 Hotel, Chelsea, where Robert Ford is about to take an enviable retirement to the new governor.

Successors have already been appointed for all five, with departure will effectively reduce the number of generals in the Army from 27 to 22 because the jobs of Sir Jack Harman and Sir Pa Howard-Dobson have gone.

It also further diminishes that generation of serving officers who fought in the last General Sir Jack Harman, who was decorated by both the A.C. and the Poles; General Sir Hugh Beach and Sir Timothy Creasey in 1942, the 1st of El Alamein, and General Sir Richard Ford in 1943.

Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson was also said to have been in other parts of the Army. A polished table at the Staff College at Camberley said to bear the scars of a personal battle against the "gigantic young Cavalry" while a student there.

Tax on benefits in 1982 confirmed

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Benefits for the unemployed and strikers' families are to be taxed from April 6, 1982, the Finance Bill confirmed yesterday. It is expected that the measure will produce £200m extra revenue in a full year.

The benefits will not be taxed directly. Under regulations to be made later this year, the unemployed and strikers will not receive tax rebates, or have tax due on their benefits deducted until they return to work at the end of the tax year if that is sooner.

The measures fulfil pledges given in last year's Budget that national insurance unemployment benefits and supplementary benefits for strikers' families would be made subject to tax in the 1982-83 financial year. But taxation of sickness benefit, invalidity pensions, and other incapacity benefits has been delayed.

The earnings-related supplement paid with unemployment

benefit will be exempt from tax, but that is due to be abolished in January 1983. Only people who become eligible for the earnings-related supplement in the last weeks of this year will still be receiving it when unemployment benefit becomes taxable.

Allowances for children, housing costs, and exceptional circumstances will also be exempt from tax.

The standard rate of unemployment benefit, which will be £22.50 a week in April, 1982, plus the addition for a wife of £13.90, will be subject to tax. Strikers cannot claim supplementary benefit for themselves, but will be liable to tax on the £14.50 they can claim for wives.

The Child Poverty Action Group said last night that it did not oppose the taxation of benefits, but before it was introduced the deductions in inflation-proofing last year should be restored because they were said to be in lieu of tax. The tax threshold should also be raised and benefits improved first.

Cab drivers want 29% increase in fares

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

London's 12,500 taxi drivers are seeking a fare rise of 29 per cent next month, despite a 25 per cent drop in traffic during the past two years.

They blame the rise in costs and the recession. The biggest rise in costs was directly attributable to the Budget which increased the price of diesel fuel by 20p to about £1.65 a gallon.

A spokesman said: "We are being hit by lack of money and lack of visitors just like London stores, and taxi firms are going out of business because fares are too slow to meet costs."

The rise is being sought from May 1 by the London Joint Cab Tax Committee, under a formula agreed with the House of Commons after a Prices Commission inquiry in 1978. But as an alternative, they are seeking exemption from value-added tax and fuel tax which would mean a rise in fares of only 15 per cent. Fares went up by 25 per cent a year ago and by 20 per cent in July, 1979.

The effect of the rise would be to raise the cost of a mile ride from 75p to more than £1, and of a six-mile ride from £3 to about £4.

An official study last year showed the average London taxi took £160 a week, with driver earnings of £60 to £80 for a 40-hour week. But many drivers work longer hours and earn more.

Hayward threat over SDP move

By Our Political Staff

Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party, has written to Mr Benji Carlsson, general secretary of the Socialist International, to say that the Social Democrats would be opposed if they tried to affiliate to the International.

He said the breakaway group had approached "some of our sister parties" in the Socialist International, seeking support and saying they would eventually apply for affiliation.

"I want to make it crystal clear that this would be strongly opposed by the Labour Party," Mr Hayward wrote.

He said Labour MPs in the SDP were elected as Labour members. The Labour Party would be unwilling to belong to the Socialist International if the new party were admitted.



Union leader ill: Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union was comfortable in Hemel Hempstead General Hospital last night after being admitted with a suspected perforated ulcer. Mr Evans's wife, Laura, called an ambulance late on Thursday after he complained of stomach pains.

Union opposition to Benn move

By Donald Macintyre

Labour Reporter

Growing trade union pressure on Mr Wedgwood Benn to consider his challenge for the Labour Party deputy leadership was significantly boosted by the Transport and General Workers' Union's key financial and general purposes committee yesterday.

The influential "inner cabinet" of the union lined up with opponents of Mr Benn's candidacy with unexpected speed.

Although the decision could be overturned by the union's conference in June, or face opposition from the delegation to the party conference, it was thought likely last night that it would determine the union's policy until October.

Mr Mostyn Evans, the union's general secretary, had made it clear publicly that he would be among several union leaders who are expected to press Mr Benn in person to reverse his decision to stand.

Mr Larry Smith, the union's executive officer, said last night that the decision had been unanimous. He added: "What we are saying to the party leadership is 'Please do not ask us to make a choice'."

Opposition to Mr Benn's candidacy last night appeared to range from some of the more obvious political opponents on the TUC General Council to some usually thought to lean towards the left.

A notable exception was the National Union of Public Employees, whose deputy general secretary, Mr Bernard Dix, publicly refrained from committing the union but said: "I do not know how those who have been shouting about democracy while resisting constitutional change can declare themselves 24 hours after the announcement and without having had any chance to consult their members."

In sharp contrast, however, Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said last night that he deeply regretted Mr Benn's decision to stand.

"One was looking for some healing of the party and for the whole party to be pulled towards the centre," he said.

UNION ATTITUDES	
Support status quo	
TGWU	1,250,000
AUEW	850,000
GMWU	650,000
EETPU	260,000
NUJ	187,000
NUR	150,000
Undecided	
NUPE Left-leaning, no stance adopted	600,000
USDAW Gen Sec anti-Benn	429,000
NUJ Exec probably for Benn	244,000
UCATT	200,000

Mr William Whitley, general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, said: "I will be trying to persuade my union's annual delegate meeting to vote for a candidate other than Mr Benn."

The union's conference agenda includes one resolution from Swansea, drafted before his announcement, proposing Mr Benn for the deputy leadership, but moderates were expected to be defeated at the conference.

Moves by the TGWU and USDAW into the moderate camp would virtually guarantee that Mr Benn could pick up little more than about one million of the 6,450,000 trade union votes at the party conference.

The engineering union's technical, administrative and supervisory section, with 95,000 votes, appeared last night to be the largest upon which Mr Benn can definitely count.

Unions, however, have yet to decide their policy in an uncharted procedural territory.

Statement denied: Mr Robert Hughes, MP for Aberdeen North, one of the 16 left-wing Labour MPs who signed Mr Benn's nomination, said yesterday that a statement in *The Times* that he was unhappy about Mr Benn's decision and was considering withdrawing without foundation (our Political Staff write). The report referred to some of his colleagues' having indicated that that was his state of mind.

Unions hope airport will be disrupted

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

Civil Service unions have this weekend chosen Manchester airport as the target for disruption of passenger movements as part of their four-week programme of selective strikes.

Immigration officers at the airport will operate only a skeleton staff today and tomorrow at peak periods.

Customs officers in Dover walked out on a five-hour strike last night which delayed lorries trying to get across the Channel.

It is thought that the nine unions are planning action next week which would affect government defence establishments and the secret communications network.

More than 50 workers in Inland Revenue collection offices were called out on strike yesterday to avoid the threat of suspension by the management. British Airways has reached agreement on an 8 per cent pay rise for 6,000 ground service staff, but shop stewards representing engineering and maintenance workers have rejected a similar offer.



The gold medallion given to Hereford by the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment to mark the granting of the freedom of the city to the regiment yesterday. It was made by a former sergeant in the SAS, and will be added to the mayor's chain.

Train guard in court after April fool joke

By Our Political Staff

Anthony Burr, aged 20, Tube train guard, of Maroon Street, Poplar, London, made up a human figure of old clothes and newspaper, sprinkled tomato juice on it to represent blood and threw it on the line as an April fool joke, magistrates at Tower Bridge Court were told yesterday.

Pleading guilty to obstructing the line, he was remanded on bail until April 24 for a social report.

Corruption trial man says he was 'set up'

By Richard Ford

Middlesbrough

A former detective sergeant in the Metropolitan Police denied yesterday that he had demanded money from a south London man in return for assistance with the man's criminal activities. He said he had thought he could manipulate the man into becoming an informant, but had not known that the man had decided to "set him up" by tape-recording conversations.

Mr John Symonds, the former policeman, said: "Everything about me demanding £200 and telling him to go and do something and all the rest of the allegations is total, total nonsense."

He was making a statement from court at the beginning of his defence in the police corruption trial at Teesside Crown Court and several times had to be rebuked by Judge Strydom, QC, for bringing in inadmissible evidence. He denies three charges of corruption, accepting a total of £150 from Mr Michael Perry, a former criminal, in payment for helping him over an arrest.

In his statement, Mr Symonds, who is conducting his own defence, said he was given information about Mr Perry and his associates who were disliked in the Camberwell area of south London because they were "no flash" and attracted police attention.

In brief

£25,000 appeal for opera visit

An appeal to companies and individuals in north west England to raise £25,000 to ensure that the Royal Opera will be able to visit Manchester next month was made yesterday by Mr James Bingham, chairman of Greater Manchester County Council.

The council had been expected to contribute at least £30,000 but the recreation and arts committee reduced the figure to £5,000.

Barnard libel damages against London firms

Professor Christiana Barnard, the South African heart surgeon, yesterday accepted undisclosed damages in the High Court, London, in settlement of a libel action over a suggestion in a book, *Slaughter of the Innocent*, that he carried out operations without regard to the welfare of his patients.

He sued the London publishers Futura Publications and printers, Hazell Watson and Viney.

Speedboat record bid

Britain's first attempt on the world speed record since Donald Campbell's fatal attempt 13 years ago is to be made at Coniston Water, Cumbria in the autumn. Tony Fahey, of Manchester, will be aiming to improve on the speed of 317.7 mph set by Ken Warby, of Australia, last year.

Documents remand

Lavinia Mackenzie, aged 25, unemployed, of Crutchley Road, Catford, south London, was charged yesterday at Lewisham with dishonestly handling stolen RAF documents. She was released on bail to appear before Greenwich magistrates on May 1.

Dockers end strike

Southampton's 1,700 dockers ended their strike over pay parity yesterday after hearing that all their demands had been met by the British Transport Docks Board. They will be paid for the 23 days they have been off work.

Bridal train

A railway engine is to be named after Lady Diana Spencer. Work has begun on making the name plates in the foundry of the British Rail engineering plant at Swindon, Wiltshire.

Rolls-Royce writ

Rolls-Royce has issued a writ against Mr John Dodd, of Epsom, Surrey, to stop him using its name and trade marks on a 200-mile-an-hour custom-built car.

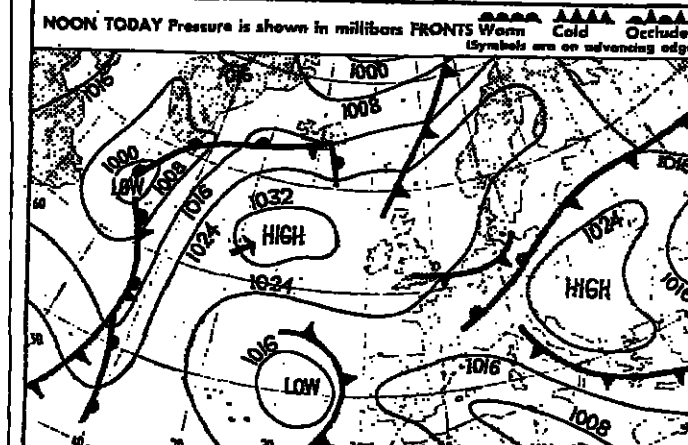
Reactor shut down

The Atomic Energy Authority's advanced gas-cooled reactor at Sellafield, Cumbria, was shut down yesterday after producing electricity for 18 years.

Fire at hospital

Patients and staff were evacuated yesterday when fire damaged a wing of Park Prewitt hospital, Basingstoke, Hants. An electrical fault was blamed.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today		Tomorrow	
Sun rises: 6.30 am	Sun sets: 7.39 pm	Sun rises: 6.27 am	Sun sets: 7.40 pm
Moon sets: 6.48 am	Moon rises: 7.11 pm	Moon sets: 7.14 am	Moon rises: 8.35 pm

New Moon: 9.19 pm. Lighting up: 8.09 pm to 5.57 am. High Water: London Bridge, 2.0 am, 7.1m; 2.38pm, 7.5m; Avonmouth, 7.52 am, 13.7m; 8.17 pm, 13.7m. Dover, 11.21 am, 6.6m; 11.45 pm, 6.6m. Hull, 5.53 am, 7.4m; 7 pm, 7.7m; Liverpool, 11.45 am, 9.7m. 1m=0.3048m. 1m=2.08ft.

An anticyclone will persist over N. areas.

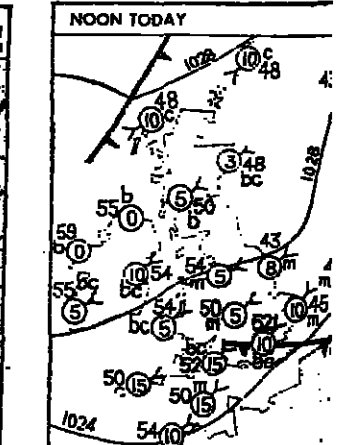
Forecasts from 6 am to midnight: London, central S, SW, central N. England, Midlands: Dull and misty first, dry, sunny intervals in places later; wind NE, moderate; max temp 10° to 12°C (50° to 54°F).

S. E. England, East Anglia, Channel Islands: Mostly cloudy and misty; a little drizzle in places; wind NE, moderate to fresh; max temp 7° to 9°C (45° to 48°F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N. Ireland: Sunny periods in most parts by midday, fog persisting.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY

Aberdeen	10	6	Collegiate	12	54
Aldershot	10	40	Exeter	14	57
Ashford	10	40	Falmouth	18	64
Barnsley	10	30	Glasgow	18	64
Belfast	10	30	Gloucester	18	64
Birmingham	10	30	Harrogate	18	64
Bournemouth	10	30	Leeds	18	64
Brighton	10	30	London	18	64
Bristol	10	30	Manchester	18	64
Buckingham	10	30	Newcastle	18	64
Burgess Hill	10	30	Nottingham	18	64
Cardiff	10	30	Sheffield	18	64
Cardigan	10	30	Southampton	18	64
Carlisle	10	30	Stirling	18	64
Carmarthen	10	30	Swansea	18	64
Caswell	10	30	Torquay	18	64
Caswell	10	30	Wrexham	18	64
Caswell	10	30	York	18	64



temp 11° to 12°C (52° to 54°F). Outlook for tomorrow and the day after: Staying dry in most places with sunny periods. W. Cloudier in E. areas.

Sea passages: S. North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel, Irish Sea, all fresh; occasional drizzle; slight or moderate.

St. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind variable, light, fair; smooth.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 7 a.m. p.m., 12°C (54°F); min 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., 7°C (45°F). Humid to p.m., 72 per cent. Rain, 24 hr, 9.0 in. Sun, 24 hr, 7.0 in. 3.0 hr. Bar. mean sea level, 7.0 in. 1025.3 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.93 in.

Overseas sailing prices

Aberdeen	10	6	Collegiate	12	54
Aldershot	10	40	Exeter	14	57
Ashford	10	40	Falmouth	18	64
Barnsley	10	30	Glasgow	18	64
Belfast	10	30	Gloucester	18	64
Birmingham	10	30	Harrogate	18	64
Bournemouth	10	30	Leeds	18	64
Brighton	10	30	London	18	64
Bristol	10	30	Manchester	18	64
Buckingham	10	30	Newcastle	18	64
Burgess Hill	10	30	Nottingham	18	64
Cardiff	10	30	Sheffield	18	64
Cardigan	10	30	Southampton	18	64
Carlisle	10	30	Stirling	18	64
Carmarthen	10	30	Swansea	18	64
Caswell	10	30	Torquay	18	64
Caswell	10	30	Wrexham	18	64
Caswell	10	30	York	18	64

Mr Walker 'crushes' opposition to deal on farm prices

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, scored a considerable personal victory in the Commons yesterday as he crushed opposition to the deal on farm prices.

Support for the agreement came from the Liberals, the Official Unionists, and overwhelmingly from the Tory back benches.

There was bitter opposition from the Scottish National Party, Mr James Kilgadd, the sole Ulster Unionist in the House, and Mr Tony Marlow, Conservative MP for Northampton, North. Mr Marlow, who has been urging feeling to put it mildly, towards the EEC, called on the minister to resign.

Mr Walker had little difficulty in dealing with Mr Gavin Strang, the Labour front bench, who claimed that it was the worst farm price settlement to have come out of Brussels and that it was sheer hypocrisy to say that important new economy measures were secured.

The minister replied that the overall effect of the price increases would be less than a quarter of 1 per cent on the retail price index and about 1 per cent on food prices over a full year. He added that under the new Labour Government food prices had gone up by 1 per cent every two weeks, although he generously accepted that the main reason for that was the Labour Government, rather than price settlements in Brussels.

Pointing out that farm incomes in the United Kingdom had declined in real terms last year by 24 per cent, Mr Walker said it was likely that the input costs of farmers would rise this year by more than the £325m provided in the package. That

indicated that in real terms there was likely to be a continuing fall in farmers' incomes.

As for the effect on the consumer, Mr Walker told the House that the beef and lamb premium schemes were continuing. They would directly benefit the British housewife by about £200m.

Beef prices would not rise as a result of the settlement, nor would there be increases in the price of bacon. The price increase for milk would be in effect on the liquid milk price in this country.

As for Mr Marlow, the minister showed no inclination to accept his suggestion that he should resign. Mr Marlow, he said, had begun sounding off before the Council of Ministers meeting had ended and had allowed his anti-Community enthusiasm to lead him into error.

The minister told the House that substantial adjustments in farm prices were necessary this year to avoid real falls in British agricultural production. If that had happened there would have been a considerable increase in imports.

Mr Strang remained unconvinced. The only rational explanation for the deal, he said, was that the Government decided to sacrifice the interests of the British people to help secure the re-election of the French President. The increase in the nation's food bill would bear most heavily on poor families who already spent a proportion of their incomes on food.

Later, Mr Mark Hughes, from the Labour front bench, said he had been authorized by Mr Michael Foot to ask that business for next week should be reserved to allow a debate on "this heroic capitulation" by the minister. Mr Walker replied that if that could be arranged he would be delighted. Parliamentary report, page 10

McNee attack on the London militants

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

The campaign against the police after the recent fire in Deptford has been encouraged by militants who have caused racial trouble elsewhere in London. In the past, Sir David McNee, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said last night.

Interviewed for London Weekend Television's *London Programme*, Sir David said: "I think if we look at what is happening in Deptford, and what has been happening, we would find there the same individuals that we get at Notting Hill, or wherever there is difficulty. They are also in Deptford motivating and urging the black community to confront the police."

But the majority of the black community were responsible, recent individuals who had taken the heat out of the situation on themselves, Sir David said. A lot of street crime is com-

mitted by black youngsters. However, he would not say it was a disproportionate amount. Asked about allegations of biased treatment of blacks by the police, Sir David said: "We do not want this kind of officer in our midst because he has got to appreciate that we are policing a multicultural society."

He did not think police attitudes to public order had changed, but he suggested that the attitudes of militants had. "If you look at Lewisham or Southall, I think you find that the level of violence used by the militants... against the police was greater than anything I have seen in my 35 years of police service."

It was put to Sir David that many people feared that Mr Blair Peach, a schoolteacher who died in Southall in 1979, was killed by police. He said: "That is a very extravagant statement that could be true, I am not denying that; but the evidence was such that nothing came out in the investigation."

Three remanded on charges of kidnapping

Our Correspondent
Unbridge

Three people arrested on Monday in connection with the alleged kidnapping of Mark Ody, aged 16, a schoolboy, Graveley, Cambridgeshire, appeared before magistrates at Unbridge yesterday.

Stephen Evans, aged 48, a pupil nurse and former secretary to the youth's father, Raymond Berry, her husband, aged a builder's labourer, both of 15 End Road, Kempton, Middlesex, and Robert Dargy, aged 26, an unemployed male nurse, of Hill St, Prudhoe, Northumberland, were remanded in custody one week.

They were accused of kidnapping the youth, imprisoning him against his will, and demanding with threats £1,000 from his father. Ongoing restrictions were not lifted. The three will appear in next Friday at St Neots Magistrates' Court.

Man cleared of coffin theft at crematorium

Our Correspondent
York

A crematorium attendant was acquitted yesterday of stealing a coffin after a funeral service. Charles Fox, aged 60, of Main Street, Bishopthorpe, York, had claimed throughout the trial at York Crown Court that the family had either mistaken a coffin for their grandfather's body or were so distressed that they imagined everything.

The Rev John Hall, Vicar of St Chad's, York, told the court: "I have witnessed mourners who believe they have seen the bodies of relatives after they have been buried or cremated."

The police investigation began when Mark Durran, aged 17, and his mother, Mrs June Durran, of Lepton, near Huddersfield, claimed they had seen the body of his grandfather on a trolley after the service. There was no sign of the coffin.

Foot and mouth curbs may be lifted

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Government curbs on movements of farm animals on the British mainland will be lifted on Sunday night if there are no further outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease. Restrictions in the Isle of Wight, where the first British outbreak for 13 years occurred last month, will remain for at least one more week.

Curbs in Jersey, which had its first outbreak since 1974 last month, will be lifted on Thursday. Some restrictions have already been eased.

More than 600 farm animals have been slaughtered in the past month in the British campaign to prevent the disease from spreading. Fewer than 20 of those were known to have the disease at the time of slaughter. The cost to the Government in compensation to owners will exceed £100,000.

Veterinary surgeons gave a warning yesterday of the urgent need to keep rabbits out of Britain. The disease in France has now reached its closest approach to the Channel.

Mr Edward Chandler, president of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, said: "We really want members of the public to rat on those people whom they think are smuggling animals."

The Prayer Book being killed by slow strangulation, Conservative MP says

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

One of the chief glories of England, *The Book of Common Prayer*, is being "murdered through slow strangulation", according to Lord Cranborne, Conservative MP for Dorset. South, who will leave in the Commons next Wednesday to introduce a Prayer Book (Protection) Bill.

In the Lords, on the same day, Lord Sudeley, a Conservative, will move the second reading of a similar Bill. Several

bishops are expected to take part in the debate, including the Bishop of Durham, Dr J. S. Habbington, who was chairman of the working group of the Synod of the Church of England, which made the proposals for using the *Alternative Service Book 1981*, now strongly criticized in many parishes.

Lord Cranborne said in an explanation of his Bill published yesterday: "Its main provision is that *The Book of Common Prayer* should be used in each parish at least once a

month if 20 of those on the electoral roll so petition the incumbent."

"The Bill thus seeks to eliminate many of today's abuses. There has been constant complaint from parishes that incumbents convert to the new liturgy without consultation, or that they pressurize the parochial church council into accepting innovations as 'experiments' which rapidly become permanent fixtures."

Leading article, page 13



Detail from Bellotto's "A view of Verona", which is being sold by the trustees of the Powis Castle estate, Powis.

Rival bids for view by Bellotto

By Frances Gibb

The National Trust and the National Gallery are competing for possession of one of the finest paintings in Wales, "A view of Verona" by Bernardo Bellotto, which is valued at about £700,000.

The painting has been offered for sale by its owners, the trustees of the Powis Castle estate, to settle capital transfer taxes and raise funds.

Neither the National Gallery nor the National Trust, both having made offers, has yet

heard from the trustees of the castle estate and both are concerned, in the case of the National Gallery, somewhat irritated, by the delay.

It is hoped by many in Wales that the picture will go to the National Trust, which owns the castle but not all of its contents. The National Gallery is keen to secure a work by Bellotto, nephew of Canaletto, because it has no example of his work.

The gallery has offered £300,000 from its purchase grant (a price that takes into account the tax exemptions granted on sales of works to national institutions). Sir Michael Levey, gallery director, said yesterday: "If we hear from the trustees we shall be delighted and if we do not, one has to be glad that a picture

which could have left the United Kingdom is to remain here."

Sir Michael made it clear that he thought the National Gallery had as good a claim as Powis Castle and expressed concern about whether enough people would see the work if it was there.

"We have yet to discover that the artist has a Welsh parentage," he said. "I do not think the painting is any more part of the Welsh heritage than the English heritage; one has to remember it was not painted for the castle."

The work came on the market in the eighteenth century, he said, and had moved round since then, being shown for a period in London. It had been

in the castle permanently for the past 100 years or so.

The National Gallery was the first to make an offer but about 10 days ago the trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which helps preserve for the nation works that are part of the heritage, agreed to help the National Trust.

The heritage fund would provide a proportion of the necessary cash, its trustees said, if the National Trust was offered the work by the Powis estate trustees.

It is the first time that the fund's trustees have agreed to help buy a work not threatened with a sale abroad, and it is believed to be the most difficult decision they have yet had to make since the fund was set up last spring.

Students to campaign against the cuts

From Paul Flather
of The Times Higher Education Supplement, Blackpool

The National Union of Students is to launch a campaign involving work-in strikes, and petitions to oppose government cuts that are expected to lead to hall closures and fee increases.

Mr David Aaronovitch, the president, yesterday told the union's national conference in

Blackpool that such a campaign was the only way to force the Government to think again about its "short-sighted and irresponsible" strategy, outlined in the recent White Paper.

He accused Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, of being involved in an exercise of social, economic, industrial, and educational asset-stripping.

Student sent to jail for Jumbo jet bomb hoax

William Gray, aged 17, an American high school student, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment yesterday for starting a bomb scare on a Jumbo jet which had to make an emergency landing on Thursday night.

The Royal Jordanian Airlines Boeing 747, with 368 passengers and 14 crew was delayed for seven hours after making an unscheduled landing at Manchester Airport.

A scribbled note saying there was a bomb on board was handed to a stewardess and the captain of the aircraft, on its way from Amsterdam to New York, landed at King's.

Yesterday Mr Gray, of Little Road, Salem, Virginia, pleaded guilty to communicating information which he knew to be false contrary to the Criminal Law Act, 1977.

Mr John Coffey, the Manchester stipendiary magistrate told him: "Your offence is one of the most serious of its kind. It is possible to imagine 368 people and the crew of the aircraft were taken out of their way because you pretended that the plane was about to explode."

"It is difficult to imagine anything more calculated to terrify people in a week where we have heard of armed men holding a plane to ransom." Mr Noel Williams, for the prosecution said that the captain had to jettison 4,000 gallons of fuel, worth £7,000. About sixty policemen spent three hours searching luggage and the aircraft.

At first Mr Gray denied writing the note, but later admitted it. Mr Williams said: "The note was a hoax. According to the defendant it was issued in jest; but a considerable number of people were put to inconvenience."

Mr Robert Lizar, for the defence, said Mr Gray was in a party of students from the Church of God Christian School, Virginia, who had been touring the Middle East. Mr Gray and two others began to play a game which resulted in him writing the note.

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Come and talk to the listening bank

Millions of visitors ready to sample the splendours of English country gardens

Most possessors of beautiful gardens have throughout history been eager to share the splendours of their shrubberies, lawns with others. Show-off magnificent gardens to the public has always been a satisfying British trait, and the horticultural movement of others.

The visiting season is about art. There are more than 10,000 gardens in England and Scotland. In the 1980s it is estimated that 1,500,000 people alone will visit some of their leisure gardens in England.

Life and leisure

Cyril Bainbridge

nursery of Sunday band concerts, against which Edward Baines, a Leeds MP once campaigned, believing that the martial music would cause pulses to pound and imaginations to fire with a consequent danger of civil disobedience. The private and semi-private gardens that are open to the public vary in style and in the opportunities to visit them. Some are rarely closed; others, like the Queen's Gardens at Frogmore, Berkshire, are open only one or two days a year. This year on May 6 and 7. Another royal garden, Barnwell Manor in Northamptonshire, home of the Duke of Gloucester, has an open day on April 26. Distinctive features that illustrate the various influences on garden makers are still often to be seen: for instance, the seventeenth-century French and Italian styles of formal garden with radiating avenues of neatly clipped trees; the natural gar-

dens with fanciful buildings of the eighteenth century; the new plant species introduced, last century; and the present liking for special gardens.

Historic houses and National Trust properties are particularly noted for their gardens, but many of the nation's finest examples remain in private ownership.

Some are open regularly but hundreds of others only occasionally, in aid of charity. More than 1,250 garden gates are opened in aid of the National Garden Scheme, which helps retired and needy district nurses.

Useful guides to gardens that are open include: *List of English Gardens* (English Tourist Board, Dept 4, Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 3SP); *Gardens Open to the Public in England and Wales* (National Gardens Scheme, 57 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1 7DP, and 25p postage); *Gardens to Visit* (Gardeners' Sunday, White Witches, Claygate Road, Dorking, Surrey, 30p, post free); *Properties Open in 1981* (National Trust, 42 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 3BP, and 20p postage); *Scotland's Gardens Scheme* (25 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 1SP, post free).

Albanian nationalists use pupils as riot shield in Pristina

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, April 3

Yugoslavia's Albanian autonomous region of Kosovo has been sealed off after the authorities last night proclaimed a full-scale state of emergency.

The nationalist disturbances, which erupted in Pristina, the capital of the region, on Wednesday, continued yesterday claiming the lives of two demonstrators. Two policemen were seriously wounded by shots fired from among the demonstrators whose ranks swelled to more than 20,000 when miners from the nearby coal mine and workers from the electric power station in the neighbouring town of Obilic joined nationalist students.

The demonstrators were well organized. Many carried their children on their shoulders and used schoolchildren as a shield, as they marched through the town to the prison, where some 21 students who took part in last week's riots are detained.

Others tried to force their way into the hospital where several dozen people injured in last week's demonstration are being treated, but Army units in armoured cars barred their way. The angry mob then overturned cars and set them on fire.

Throughout yesterday riot police were patrolling the streets and taking up positions on approaches to the region's capital, as well as to three neighbouring towns, which were divided off by barbed wire.

Foreign journalists, who arrived in Pristina last night, were kept in their hotels overnight and escorted out of the region this morning after being told that their safety could not be guaranteed.

Today, Kosovo is apparently calm. However, the authorities are apprehensive about tomorrow, when the two demonstra-

tors, killed by gun shots, are to be buried.

The authorities insist that the shots could not have been fired by the police as they were under order to use anything but firearms to control the crowds.

There is no concealing the fact that the situation is extremely grave, and that whoever is behind the riots it is to all intents and purposes a revolt of the Albanians in the region, and also a challenge not only to Yugoslavia's constitutional order, but to Kosovo's future existence within the present borders.

This is what must have prompted the authorities to act with demonstrative determination and bring in the Army. In the face of the threat to Yugoslavia's territorial integrity, the authorities have decided to mobilize the population.

Yugoslav officials, who speak quite frankly about the gravity of the situation in Kosovo, are suggesting that there is a hard core of a few hundred people, mainly students and teachers, who had planned the mobilities by starting a protest about students' living conditions. This they gradually built up into a demonstration of nationalist flavour.

This apparent hard-core of protesters is ideologically close to the Marxist-Leninist dogma preached by Tirana. National identification with the Albanians across the border is something that appeals to all, including those Albanians of Kosovo who may not like the doctrine of communism in Albania.

The situation is further aggravated by Yugoslavia's economic problems. The demand for fully-fledged Albanian republic within Yugoslavia would give the Albanians all the right of secession. Such constitutional changes if introduced might trigger a chain-reaction.

Secret agent describes the saving of a President

Washington, April 3.—Mr Jerry Parr, the American Secret Service agent who pushed President Reagan into his armoured limousine after Monday's assassination attempt, received a lengthy ovation today after describing the incident to a Senate committee.

Mr Parr said he did not believe that the President's bodyguards could have acted differently or could be faulted.

"I heard the gunfire and immediately moved the President left, down and forward into the car," he said. "It was an instinctive reaction. I reacted to the sound. Basically, we seek the safest place. For me, it was behind the door and into the car."

Asked how Mr Timothy McCarthy, another agent, had the courage to push the President's assailant, as a result, receive a bullet in the stomach, Mr Parr had a simple explanation.

Secret Service agents are trained to shield the President with their bodies, he said. He said that Mr Reagan at first joked about their dive into the limousine, but once the President was able to sit up he mentioned a pain in his left side.

In a space no longer than 10 to 15 seconds, he complained of a problem of breathing," Mr Parr said. "He was getting a bit ashen in colour and then he started coughing up a little blood."

The agent said that he realized that the "blood was coming from the lung. I told the driver to head for George Washington University Hospital."

Mr Parr said that he and other agents "took him by the arm and walked him" into the hospital because there was no stretcher immediately available.

Agence France-Press.

Secretary of State appeared 'quavering, sweating, straining, and as a man on the edge of panic'

Series of blunders and the knives are out for Mr Haig

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, April 3

Mr Alexander Haig's photograph on its cover on March 9, it showed him striking an aggressive pose with the caption "The 'Vicar' takes charge". Newsweek magazine put him on its cover on March 30, looking worried with the heading "Who's in charge here?"

Mr Haig's authority had dropped drastically in the interval, and dropped still further on Monday when he appeared to lose control of himself after the President was shot.

The Time story began: "The meeting in the Oval Office was private, but after it ended White House aides invited photographers to snap pictures of Ronald Reagan and his Secretary of State. Explained the staff: 'We need to show that the Secretary has access to Reagan'. Replied another: 'You've got it wrong. We need to show that the President has access to Al Haig.'"

Then Mr Haig was involved in a dispute with the President over the appointment of Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, as chairman of a crisis management committee.

Mr Haig wanted the job, said so publicly and was publicly snubbed by Mr Reagan.

As Newsweek put it: "Haig was the victim of a self-inflicted wound that diminished his aura as Secretary and reflected unfavorably on his judgment and his calm under pressure."

It is clearly a serious misfortune for the President that the man he had chosen to direct American foreign policy should suffer so sudden a loss of authority.

In previous administrations, there was often a serious contention for the post of "vicar" for foreign policy and Mr Reagan hoped to avoid any such difficulty in his own term by choosing a man of known competence and great authority as Secretary of State and appointing as National Security Adviser a man who seemed unlikely to be able to challenge Mr Haig.

The damage last Monday was so clear that the most senior members of Mr Reagan's staff, notably Mr James Baker, his Chief of Staff, went to great lengths this week to affirm their confidence in Mr Haig, and their appreciation of his conduct in the crisis.

Now Mr Haig has left for the Middle East and Europe, and in his absence his enemies will have every opportunity to draw the President's and the public's attention to his failings.

In a column in the New York Times yesterday Mr William F. Buckley wrote of Monday's events: "The only top official to choke up was the Secretary of State... he created a problem that was not acute."

The columnist continued: "He then charged upstairs to go on television and do just the opposite of calming the nation. His voice was quavering, as a stress test would show; he was sweating, straining to keep calm, a man apparently on the edge of panic."

White House aides, who last week were wondering if Haig's power just had earned him a hickey back to private life, are this week trying to shore up his reputation.

With the President's support, such troubles were of no consequence. Now, at the very least, he has lost the confidence of some of Mr Reagan's closest associates. On Monday, for instance, there was a dispute between the Secretaries of State and Defence over the chain of command. The President had directed that if necessary the Vice-President and then the Secretary of Defence would take control.

With the President in hospital and the Vice-President in Texas, Mr Haig announced that he was

in charge after the shooting. The Secretary of Defence protested, but was told, it is said by Mr Haig: "Look, you bet go home and read your constitution, buddy, that's the way it is."

The dispute did not last long. There was no crisis that required one of the other men assume power, the Vice-President returned to Washington and it became apparent that a President would soon recover.

However, the damage done remains to be assessed. Haig's position depends up the President, and Mr Reagan will probably wait until he is out of hospital, before assessing Mr Haig's future.

There is, however, a historical precedent. When President Wilson had a stroke, Mr Lansing, his Secretary of State, several times summoned Cabinet meetings without a President's authority. Mr Wilson learnt of this, he missed him.

Uncaring attitude, page

Middle East policy shift is demanded by Jews

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 3

How will the estimated 300,000 French Jews of voting age cast their ballots on April 26 and May 10? The question is not without importance if, as the polls all show, the outcome turns on a few hundred thousand votes.

Baron Alain de Rothschild, the president of the Conseil Representatif des Institutions Juives (Crif), said yesterday that there was no "Jewish vote" as such and contested the existence of a Jewish lobby. But the American pattern, contrary to the Renuveau Juif, a more radical and activist organization which is not part of the Crif.

Beirut moves to avert threat of partition

From Tewfik Mishlawi
Beirut, April 3

As fighting continued in Beirut and the besieged Christian-populated town of Zahle, 30 miles to the east, President Elias Sarkis and his Government today moved to avert a crisis that could lead to the partition of Lebanon between the Christian and Muslim halves of the population.

They urgently contacted President Hafez al-Assad of Syria, who has had about 22,000 Syrian troops on a peace-keeping mission in Lebanon since the civil war of 1975-76.

Generally known as the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), Syrian forces entered Lebanon originally by authorization from the Arab League to support the Christian-dominated authorities against the Lebanese Muslim and predominantly leftist forces, who were backed by the Palestinian guerrilla movement.

During the past five years, the Syrians have joined an alliance with their former opponents (the Lebanese leftists and Palestinians), and consequently have become unwelcome by the Lebanese Christian right-wing coalition known as the Lebanese Front.

At an emergency meeting between the Front leaders and Christian members of the Government yesterday it was agreed to urge President Sarkis and the Cabinet to remove all ADF troops (mainly Syrian and Palestinian) from the Muslim side of the "green line" dividing Beirut into Muslim and Christian sectors and deploy



Prince of Wheels: New Zealanders have given the Prince about as much as a gold-plated miniature ball and chain attached to a foot, to remind him of the traditional naval view that marring the felly. It was the fourth day of his visit.

State Department believes crisis in Poland is still very serious

From David Cross
Washington, April 3

While the Administration here continues to watch the situation in and around Poland with apprehension, Mr. Meyszynski Jagielski, the Polish Deputy Prime Minister, today concluded his search in Washington for economic aid.

During two days of talks with members of the Administration, including Mr. George Bush, the Vice-President, the Polish leader was told that the United States would provide his Government with surplus dairy products worth \$70m (£30m) at cut-rate prices. The butter and dried milk is designed to help Poland overcome its dire food shortages.

Senator Howard Baker, the Republican leader of the Upper House, told reporters today that the State Department believed that the Polish crisis was still very serious and that the prospect for a peaceful outcome was clouded.

At a meeting with Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, Senator Baker said the Administration was concerned about "the apparent growth" in Russian troops around Poland.

The senator's remarks confirmed the thrust of yesterday's statement by Mr. Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, that the possibility of Soviet military intervention in Poland had increased in the last 24 to 48 hours. Mr. Weinberger, who was speaking to the Senate budget committee, said that the situation had worsened this week and was "very serious" now.

According to well-informed officials, several factors have caused the Administration here particular concern since the agreement earlier this week by Poland to accept a 10 per cent reduction in its military forces. First, military exercises by Warsaw Pact troops in and around Poland have not died down as expected when last weekend's crisis was defused.

Second, the Soviet propaganda machine in Moscow has now for the first time begun to criticize members of the Polish Communist Party itself rather than those not directly involved in the running of the country.

A similar pattern of propaganda attacks emerged before the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Finally, the Pentagon has information which indicates that everything is now ready for the Russians to move into Poland at the drop of a hat if they so require.



French Presidential Election

A year ago Renuveau Juif launched a Jewish boycott of the polls in order to punish the Government for its pro-Palestinian policy. There were great demonstrations in Paris, supported by politicians and intellectuals, with the slogan "12 hours for Israel".

The Renuveau Juif, led by a young and dynamic lawyer, Maitre Henri Hajdenberg, openly contests the authority of the Crif to speak for the Jewish community in France.

But the demand of the existence of a "Jewish vote" or a Jewish lobby does not imply approval of the Government's pro-Arab policy.

Yesterday, the 43 organizations which are part of the Crif issued a declaration severely criticizing the Government's foreign policy.

It states that France "must support unequivocally the peace gains achieved in the Middle East thanks to the Camp David agreements, and cause a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict to prevail."

"Our place is in the camp of peace and not on the side of the Palestine Liberation Organization which France encourages far too often through its initiatives and its votes in international gatherings."

The document condemns the representation of the PLO on French soil, and the sale of nuclear equipment to Iraq, which could lead to its development of a nuclear weapon.

It demands a break with existing policy towards Israel and the Middle East in favour of a "more lucid, more equitable, and more effective" one. Any other policy will meet with the resolute opposition of the organized Jewish community, it says.

Five months after the bomb attack against the Jewish synagogue in the rue Copernic in Paris, which the police believe increasingly to have been the work of Palestinian terrorists, the Jewish community is receiving special attention from each of the four main parties of the Socialist party.

The Communists claim that they are second to none in their struggle against racism. The Gaullists claim no one has done more for Jewish organizations than M. Jacques Chirac.

US to sell Saudis four advanced warning planes

Washington, April 3.—The Reagan Administration has decided to sell four highly sophisticated Advanced Warning and Command System aircraft, known as Awacs, to Saudi Arabia for use by its Air Force, according to Pentagon and White House sources.

The Administration plans to present the sale to Congress shortly, together with the proposal to sell the Saudis equipment for increasing the capabilities of the F-15 fighters they are getting from the United States. The proposal will be opposed by the strong pro-Israel lobby in Congress.

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State is expected to inform the Saudi Government of the decision during his

Soviet offer to Athens on nuclear arms

From Mario Modiano
Athens, April 3

President Brezhnev has offered Greece immunity from a severe attack in exchange for an undertaking by Greece not to store nuclear weapons on its territory.

The offer was made during an interview that Mr Brezhnev gave this week to the editor of the Athens daily newspaper Ned. The text was published here today.

Mr Brezhnev said: "The Soviet Union repeatedly declared that it will never use nuclear weapons against those countries that refuse to build or acquire nuclear arms."

Asked if that declaration could be converted into concrete Soviet guarantees towards such countries as Greece, for instance, the Soviet President replied: "We are ready to go one step further and sign, at a special agreement, a non-nuclear country."

Recent leaks from Washington have confirmed that nuclear warheads have been deployed in Greece.

Belize talks go ahead despite riots

By Our Diplomatic Staff

A constitutional conference on the state of Belize to open in London on Monday in spite of the state of emergency that has been instituted in the colony after almost a week of rioting.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said yesterday that the conference was taking place at the request of the Belize Government. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State, will preside over the meeting at Marlborough House.

Emergency regulations imposing a curfew and banning public meetings and the carrying of firearms, were introduced in Belize on Thursday by Mr James Hennessey, the Governor, on the advice of the local security authorities and after consultations with Mr George Price, the Prime Minister.

The regulations were imposed after several days of street rioting and unconfirmed reports of shooting incidents. Public employees throughout the colony have been on strike since the beginning of the week, apparently in protest at the tentative agreement reached between Britain and Guatemala.

The opposition United Democratic Party in Belize has opposed the agreement, which would give Guatemala various rights of access in exchange for dropping its territorial claim.

The 1,500 British troops stationed in Belize have not been called out to deal with the disturbances in the colony.

Participants in the constitutional conference are expected to arrive in London tomorrow. The Foreign Office is hoping the Belize Government, the opposition and the Governor will attend.

Policeman killed: A policeman was killed when his gun accidentally went off during a riot on Wednesday, and it is believed three other people were killed and several more injured during the rioting this week (AP reports from Belize City).

The Belize Government has agreed to a referendum on the proposed treaty, which would give Guatemala access to the Caribbean through Belize waters, but wants to wait until final details are settled.

Ottawa MPs in constitution truce

From John Best
Ottawa, April 3

A two-day ceasefire has been declared in the parliamentary battle over Canada's constitution. But the conflict is far from over.

Mr Joe Clark, leader of the Conservative opposition in the Commons, announced last night that Tory MPs had agreed to call off their blockade of House business, which had gone on for nearly two weeks.

The truce was decided on at a special party caucus, to allow the Commons to push through an urgent Bill authorizing \$14,000m (£5,148m) in government borrowing.

However, after the ceasefire ends on Monday night the Tories presumably will resume the stalling tactics—endless points of order and questions of privilege they have been using to prevent the Liberal government from proceeding with a motion that would cut off debate on the constitution.

The Tories have been encouraged by a judgment of the Newfoundland Court of Appeal earlier this week, which said the Federal Government's plan to bring home the constitution from Britain was invalid because it does not have broad provincial concurrence. Only two of Canada's 10 provinces support the measure.

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, has retreated from his long-held position that the measures should be passed and then forwarded to Westminster for approval before the Supreme Court of Canada pronounces final judgment on it.

Yesterday, in an extraordinary negotiating exchange on the floor of the Commons, and which was eventually cut short by Mrs Jeanne Sauve, the Speaker, Mr Trudeau went further and offered to postpone the Liberal Commons approval if the Tories allowed certain amendments to pass so that a complete

Poles tell banks they cannot pay debts

By Michael Prest

Poland has told Western banks that it will not be able to meet payments on its loans due in the second quarter of this year, a leading German banker said yesterday. As a result, Poland may only pay \$5,700m (£2,500m) to banks and governments in 1981, instead of about \$7,500m.

At the same time, senior bankers in London have confirmed hints dropped last Wednesday by Polish bankers that the country is interested in rejoining the International Monetary Fund. But Poland has not yet formally approached the IMF.

Mr Christoph von der Decken, a member of the management board of Dresdner Bank, one of Germany's biggest financial institutions, said yesterday that his and other German banks had been informed by the Poles that about \$1,900m in capital payments due between now and June could not be met.

He added that the remaining two thirds of this year debt would have to be rescheduled. The notice given by Poland explains why the Poles were reluctant to sign a new agreement on Thursday to consider a plan whereby Poland would be granted a moratorium on interest payments up to the end of April.

The alternative was to grant the \$1,000m bridging loan which Poland had requested. But banks are very reluctant in

Polish party leaders criticized

Warsaw, April 3.—Polish Communist Party leaders can under heavy criticism at meetings of local party organizations throughout the country as they embarked on their congress election campaign, official media reported today.

Delegates to the plenary session of the Central Committee last Sunday had accused the ruling Politburo of being out of touch with rank-and-file opinion and took the unusual step of ordering them to consult their local parties.

The national consultative commission of the independent union organization Solidarity was meeting in its Gdansk headquarters to plan the next stage of negotiations with the government.

The official news agency P.A. said there was "an open and polemical discussion" at moments broke into sharp disputes when Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Party First Secretary, met party activists in Warsaw last night.

Party members spoke out against what they called the excessive use of the term "counter-revolution" and "anti-socialism" words frequently used by the authorities to describe elements in Solidarity—Reuters and Agence France-Press.

Militants question Walesa leadership

From Timothy Garton Ash
Berlin, April 3

The storm which broke at this week's acrimonious meeting of Solidarity's national committee has been gathering for some months. The union leadership preferred to wash its dirty linen behind closed doors, excluding journalists from the most fractious part of its proceedings, but first-hand accounts have filtered through.

Solidarity was beginning to resemble a feudal monarchy, the historian Mr Karol Modzelewski complained, tendering his resignation as press spokesman.

The king, Mr Lech Walesa, governed with his court and his parliament, the national committee. But too much power was concentrated in the hands of the king and the king's men.

His criticism of the way Monday's negotiations with the Government were conducted was widely shared. Many of the approximately 40 regional representatives who make up the committee felt the union could have won more than the vague promises contained in Monday's agreement. If Mr Walesa had not been intimidated by the threat of Soviet tanks.

In private they disparage the most important of the king's men, Professor Bronislaw Geremek and Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, two Roman Catholic intellectuals who have been in

Thailand's military co up comes to an ignominious end after colonel's car stops at traffic lights

From David Watts
Bangkok, April 3

Colonel Prachak Sawangchit's car drew up at a red light near the royal palace this morning. His driver's immaculate road manners set off a chain of events that quickly and ignominiously ended Thailand's three-day military rebellion.

As the colonel's car stood waiting for the light to change, a fourfold of troops loyal to General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, arrived at the junction. Troops poured out of the lorry and called through a loud hailer on the colonel and his staff of two to surrender.

There was an exchange of fire which hit the coup's only victim, a motorcyclist, and the flamboyant and pugnacious commander of the Second Infantry Regiment gave himself up. Yesterday the colonel had been talking of a fight to the finish.

Within two hours of the colonel's capture, General Prem's forces, flown into Don Mueang airport overnight from his headquarters at Korat in the north-east, had retaken key points in Bangkok, including the radio station, without serious violence.

The leaders of the coup, General Sant Chitpatima and General Vasin Isarangkun na Ayudhya, Commander of the First Army Region, were allowed to escape in the tradition of bloodless coups in Thailand.

Two helicopters lifted off from the centre of Bangkok taking them into exile as over-head Air Force reconnaissance aircraft circled.

General Sant's family preceded him shortly before midnight last night on a scheduled flight to an unknown destination. One local newspaper said his wife withdrew the equivalent of £10m from a bank yesterday. The family is said to have left a house which cost a similar sum to build. It is thought that General Sant has gone to Burma.

Some of the troops were more resolute than their leaders and pockets of the two battalions of Sant forces were still refusing to give themselves up hours later as General Prem's forces made a show of their presence in the city.

Armoured troop carriers took up positions at road junctions and special forces troops moved into place. A Royal Thai Air Force Dakota gunship, a machine-gun protruding from its side, circled the centre of the city.

But for the most part the collapse of the April Fool's Day coup was a classic illustration of the Thai ability to reconcile the irreconcilable.

This was graphically illustrated by an incident not long after the arrest of Colonel Prachak. As a military vehicle sped along the road which separates the royal palace from the racetrack, it was ordered to stop. The driver hastily went into reverse and tried to escape but a car blocked him.

There was a fusillade of automatic fire, the windscreen was smashed and blood spilled on to the road. Two men jumped out saying: "What did you do that for? We were coming to surrender."

The commander of the Prem troops whisked off his beret, and playfully slapped it against a lieutenant's shoulder, put his arm round him and the two men walked off.

That spirit was echoed in a television address by General Prem this afternoon when he emphasized the need to forgive and forget and get on with the building of the country.

But it is unlikely that the irresponsibility of the mid-ranking commanders, who remain behind to face the music, will be either quickly forgiven or forgotten.

The coup leaders have gone into exile, the troops will be excused on the ground that they were only following the orders of their officers, but the majors and colonels withdrew vital units from active duty on the border with Cambodia where there are an estimated 200,000 Vietnamese troops.

For three days Thailand has been without an effective Government or Army. There was precensorship of the newspapers and the principal bulwark against what the other non-communist countries of the region see as the threat from the communist block was demonstrably a paper tiger.

Thailand has spent nearly £100m on new military equipment in the past two years, most of it in the United States. Some of the Army's new hardware got its first airing, not in defence against an external threat, but in a domestic argument.

A comic opera squabble is over without serious immediate consequences. But it could so easily have gone the other way.

Installation at simple ceremony in Bangui

From Ian Murray
Bangui, April 3

President David Dacko was sworn in today as the duly elected head of state of the Central African Republic in a simple ceremony in deliberate contrast to the pomp surrounding the coronation of his predecessor, the former Emperor Jean Belokassa.

On taking office he named Mr. Moizanga, the Minister of Justice, as his first Prime Minister. It will be his task to form the new Government. As yet there is no date set or even hinted at for the legislative elections, which constitutionally should now follow.

This morning's ceremony was performed before an invited audience of diplomats and local dignitaries and was broadcast live by the state radio. The crowd outside the hall, where the swearing-in took place, was outnumbered by the red-jacketed band and the company of troops escorting the national flag.

Outside the entrance a group of local folk dancers performed to the sound of the tom-tom, while over it all blared the brass music of the "Chant de Depart", the martial music which is the favourite of President Giscard d'Estaing of France.

The route from the presidential palace to the hall, which is on the outskirts of Bangui near the airport, was blocked by police at every intersection for an hour or more before the President's car passed through.

At the junction leading to the shanty town of Kilomètre 5, each corner was manned by a pair of riot police, but otherwise there was no indication of the strike call which had been made by opponents of the President the previous day.

It was symbolic that the swearing-in ceremony took place in the building now used by the French Barracuda intervention force, which has been keeping order in the Central African Republic since the fall of the emperor. Nevertheless, the French soldiers, usually well in evidence at the barracks, were discreetly out of sight with even their Jeeps either on patrol or hidden at the back.

Refugees from 'earthquake' leave Hongkong

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, April 3

More than 20 of the 90 junks which have brought nearly 5,000 Chinese in Hongkong since Monday have left their detention centre to return home.

The crisis is easing and the authorities will now declare a deadline for departure, after which all refugees who remain will be disembarked by security forces, taken to the border and handed over to the Chinese.

Yesterday, 134 refugees were repatriated and today another group of 155 from five boats will be returned. Chinese officials are cooperating fully in the operation.

This action and loud-speaker broadcasts to the crowded junks, giving assurances from Canton that the fears of an impending earthquake which provoked the protests, are unfounded, are obviously persuading more refugees to go home.

President Chun commutes Kwangju death sentences

From Jacqueline Reditt
Seoul, April 3

Death sentences recently confirmed by the Supreme Court on three South Koreans were today commuted to life imprisonment in a clemency measure approved by President Chun Doo Hwan.

The clemency order extended to a total of 83 people convicted in connection with last May's uprising in the south-western provincial capital of Kwangju, in which 189 people died.

Twenty had their sentences reduced and 57 others were released. Three whose sentences were already suspended have now had their civil rights restored.

Among the three whose death sentences were commuted today was Chong Dong Nyon, a student aged 38, whose written confession of having received money to organise student demonstrations in Kwangju,

was produced by the prosecution as key evidence in the trial of Mr Kim Dae Jung, the dissident leader.

When President Chun first took control of the country during a period of domestic instability, he imposed harsh and unpopular restrictions, extending martial law and banning all political activity.

But in recent months he has considerably eased restrictions and put into effect a reconciliation policy. In January, he commuted Mr Kim Dae Jung's death sentence to life imprisonment. To mark his inauguration last month, he offered amnesty to 5,221 political and other prisoners.

Of those involved in the Kwangju uprising, 306 had their sentences reduced or suspended earlier, and this latest measure means that leniency has been extended to all those convicted for their involvement in the incident.

Sri Lanka leader withdraws defamation claim

From Our Correspondent
Colombo, April 3

President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka today agreed to withdraw a 2m rupee (£50,000) defamation claim against Independent Newspapers Ltd after they agreed to publish an apology and pay 50,000 rupees to two charities named by him.

The English-language morning paper of the group has already apologized unreservedly twice to Mr Jayewardene and explained the circumstances in which the statements were published.

In another case, Mr Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance, is suing the same group for 1m rupees for defamation.

Road crash kills 15

Maseru, April 3.—Fifteen people were killed in a road accident at Mantsonyane, Lesotho, last night.



Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese Vice-Chairman, chatting with Lord Carrington yesterday.

China pledge on colony's investments

From David Bonavia
eking, April 3

Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, today told Lord Carrington that investors in Hongkong need not worry about the future of the colony. "This is the official position of the Chinese Government," Mr Deng said. "Even if there were some change in 16 years' time (when the lease on the economically vital new territories expires), the interests of investors will not be harmed."

Informed sources in the British party said Mr Deng gave no more specific assurances, but a telegram has been sent to the Hongkong Government with news of this reiteration of China's long-standing position. It is understood that the Foreign Secretary did not raise the question of the sale of about £40m worth of British military electronics equipment which Marconi representatives here are attempting to finalise.

Yesterday Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, repeated the Government's invitation to the Queen to visit China, but no firm date has been discussed. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, however, is thought likely to visit China next year.

The Hongkong question is becoming obsessive in Anglo-

Chinese relations, as the British authorities continue to press for some definite statement of Chinese intentions for the expiry of the lease in 1997.

Mr Deng told Lord Carrington today: "We have a billion people and about six million are opposed to five or six million."

Observers believe the Chinese have themselves not decided how they will solve the Hongkong problem, in view of the colony's extreme usefulness as a source of foreign exchange and expertise.

Lord Carrington is understood to feel that the reiteration of China's favourable attitude towards Hongkong, to someone holding his office, is in itself an encouraging sign. The British delegation leaves tomorrow for a short visit to Xian in north-west China.

Japanese unions launch ritual spring offensive

From Peter Hazelhurst
yo, April 3

In an annual ritual in Japan, spring labour offensive, an today when more than a million workers launched a campaign for higher wages.

By want a marginal increase of 2 per cent above the offers leading industrialists.

In the most serious incidents industrial unrest this year the action was ineffective. Hundreds of ticket collectors on an National Railways went strike for two hours during rush hour this morning. But pickets for the railways were ineffective.

Many most passengers pursued their tickets and deposited their bags on trays at unimpeded exit gates of stations.

Other incidents thousands of workers took part in demonstrations during their lunch break today and then dutifully returned to work.

Thousands of members of powerful trade union federations, including the Japan Federation of Labour Unions and the Japan Federation of Metal Engineering Workers, went out on partial strikes for maximum period of two days.

Turkish diplomat recovers after Copenhagen shooting

Christopher Follett
Copenhagen, April 3

Cavit Demirel, the First Secretary of the Turkish Embassy in Copenhagen, was recovering actively in a Copenhagen hospital today, after undergoing surgery to remove six bullets from his kidneys, throat and groin.

He was shot by members of the Armenian underground organisation at his home last night. Police are still hunting for the gunman.

The French Embassy here in protest against insufficient protection from the French Government for Turkish diplomats based in France where five Turkish diplomats have been shot dead by Armenian groups since 1973, two of them last month.

An Armenian group calling itself the Secret Armenian Army first claimed responsibility for yesterday's shooting in a telephone call to Ritzan, the Danish news agency.

Reuters News Agency in Beirut then received a telephone statement from the so-called Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide denying that the action was connected with the Secret Armenian Army and claiming full responsibility.

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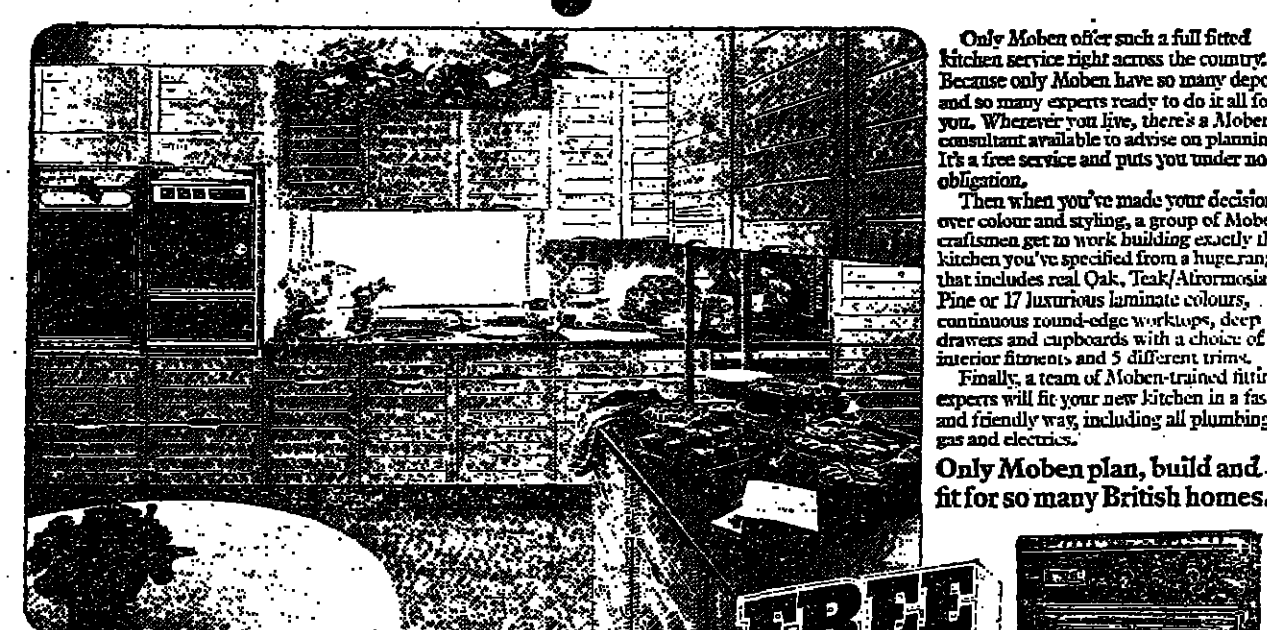
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Saturday Review

She took it so well

A short story by Brian Glanville

"But she took it so well, she's taken it so well!" Each chant at me in their hard, bright voices; up and down Hampstead High Street, in the greengrocer's, the fishmonger's, the coffee shop. "So well, so well she's been absolutely marvellous!" till I wondered if praise like this, from people like these, implied the opposite of what was said. In their narrow, sharply lit, protected world, there seemed no more room for sensibility than there was for mud in the hall.

Could she be taking it too well, or as easily, in its different way as she had taken the death of Mr George? I was ashamed of the thought, and tried to chase it away; the bereavement had been so recent, so sudden and so horrible. If she could come to terms with it in any way at all, it must be good.

Peter had been killed in the Temple. An Arab had shot at another Arab, and hit him instead as he walked out of his chambers, quite unwittingly, behind the quarry, whom he had not even known. The man who should have died was a refugee from a Middle Eastern tyrant, a former minister who had left and denounced the regime. The gunman was one of those who seemed to swarm all over Europe, now, murdering their victims in Rome, in Paris, even London, where such things had once been unthinkable. So Peter's death was random, senseless and appalling, the more still because he was what he was, an absolute idealist, always away somewhere or other to assist Czech dissidents, to stop black guerrillas being hanged by the South Africans, to plead some prisoner's case at the International Court, never taking a penny for any of it. He was a QC, but you felt he crammed his work at the bar into the interstices of what really mattered to him.

"He's such an altruist", Helen used to say, with that little lift of the head she gave, as though looking up above her audience and into a spiritual stratosphere. "He shouldn't do all the things he does, but who can stop him?" I sometimes had the feeling she would like to.

They lived well enough, in their house on the Heath, furnished and decorated in Helen's arid good taste, though hung with pictures Peter had bought from exhibitions. There was a boy at Westminster and another at St Paul's. For their holidays, they would take a boat to West Wittering; he had enough, Peter would say, of being abroad. He was forever flying, and when he did, Helen would fly with him, while the boys and a succession of au pair girls fended for themselves. "She should be called Ruth", my husband once said to me, "whither thou goest, I shall go."

"He just can't bear to be away from her", said the chatterers in the High Street, "he adores her", but I was not sure. He did adore her, you could tell that from the way he looked at her, the way he was at ease with her, yet she never seemed at ease with him. I sensed, at times, a touch of desperation to her love.

"Peter and I..." she'd say. "We think... We both believe..." He never contradicted her; he merely smiled. Now and again, at dinner parties or at cocktail parties, I'd catch her looking at him with a kind of fear, perhaps a fear of losing him, and now, he'd gone. Not to another woman, but to a bullet.

She worked, part time, in the Citizens' Advice Bureau. I could imagine her sitting behind a table in one of those bleak little rooms, dispensing hearty common sense, telling people they should pull themselves together, sticking always to the letter of the law, where Peter was concerned with the spirit.

"Isn't she beautiful?" her friends would ask me in the High Street. "She looks so beautiful, despite it all."

What they meant, I thought, was she looked well; she had never been beautiful. If anything, the word was healthy, with her fair, curly hair, her pink complexion, her sturdy legs bared for squash, which she played not with Peter but her sons. I'd watched them once, when the boys were much smaller. "Come on, come on!" she'd cried, laughing with unrestrained delight when she had scored a point. "Come on, keep up! You can do much better than that!" When she couldn't play, they played with Mr George.

"Oh, I love playing with Mr George!" the younger boy had told my children, once, eyes shining with remembered joy. "He's so good, he shows you things!" to which Helen, who was there, had sharply replied, "You like playing Mr George because he lets you win. He plays pat ball!"

Mr George was very old, even when I first met him. No one knew quite how old, but he'd gone Over The Top in the Great War, and was supposed to have won a medal. Everyone loved Mr George just as, in a different way, they loved Peter Melton. "My dear", said the Hampstead Ladies, "he's one of Helen's discoveries." She had "discovered" him in the Citizens' Advice Bureau. He was poor and he was frail, he had been widowed ten years ago, he lived in a chilly furnished room behind the Finchley Road, and gallantly kept up appearances. What Helen did was find him things to do. "It gives them dignity", she said. "And of course, a little money. We don't always need to use him when we do but they like to feel they're needed."

Mr George could meet many different needs; he was willing and he was versatile. He could cook and drive and garden. He was, as Helen said, "quite scrupulously clean and honest; a tiny man who looked as if he'd wizened in the sun, whose jauntiness told of saloon bars, crude jests with commercial travellers but whose background was in fact, pathetically, something better; a minor public school, achievements as an athlete, soldiering, gliding, mountaineering."

"The children love listening to him", Helen said. "They believe everything he tells them."

My children love it, too, when he came to us the times when Helen didn't need him. She was quite generous with him, happy to farm him out, to sub-contract him. "He needs the occupation." He, in turn, was loyal as a dog to her and Peter, though clearly more attached to Peter than to her. Now and again, in his crisp, curt embarrassed way, he would let something slip.

"Doesn't believe in cleaning mushrooms, the good lady. Just throws them in the stew."

Behind the façade of cleanliness and order, one glimpsed another world of strange squalor, almost of sluttishness; unhygienic and grimy. When he knew he had been indiscreet, Mr George's mouth would shut tight in his seamed little face.

ling snow off the front path, humping shopping through the windy streets.

"I've been better", he admitted, outside Sainsbury's, one day.

Then stay in bed, Mr George, I begged.

"No, no, duty calls", and he coughed. "It's nothing much. Just a tickle."

A day later he was in hospital with pneumonia; two days more, and he was dead. Helen sent a massive wreath of lilies to the funeral, but she did not come, while Peter was in Ghana, defending a man on trial for his life. Mr George's brother paid for the funeral; we rode in the hearse together, he and I, the solitary mourners. He'd come up from Gloucestershire, a farmer, younger than Mr George, plumper, less buffeted by life. He had Mr George's soft, doggy eyes, his brisk voice, but none of his resignation. "Wife wanted to come", he said, apologetically, "but couldn't get away," so that I knew she hadn't wanted to come, had probably found poor Mr George a boring nuisance.

We stood by the grave in the little green churchyard while she blew over us and a clergyman who'd never known Mr George talked about his splendid qualities. The Melton's wreath lay there, luxuriously out of place, like an orchid in a potato patch.

"Never had much luck", Mr George's brother said. Peter's funeral was very different. It was held in Belgrave. The church was packed with prosperous, elegant, distinguished people, discreet and solemn in their grief. A fashionable clergyman with very blond hair and a translucent skin spoke of Peter's benefactions to the underprivileged. "This is not a loss", he said, "not only to his loving family, not only to his many and devoted friends, but, I may truly say, to humanity at large." I thought it true, but wished it had been said by someone else.

Helen, in her widow's weeds, looked quite extraordinary. There was a martyred radiance about her. I had not seen her since the murder, though I'd tried to from the moment that I'd heard about it, heard by chance on a news bulletin while working in the kitchen, listening mindlessly to mindless music, experiencing no more than the generalized sense of shock and disgust when I heard that "a prominent lawyer was shot dead today outside his chambers at the Temple in Central London," only to be frozen, stunned and horrified, when they gave Peter's name.

Helen would not see anybody then, and I could not blame her. Any phone call was intercepted by the operator, later answered by her au pair, or one of her sons. "She's very sorry, but she says she'd rather not speak to anybody at the moment. She says she hopes you'll understand." Of course I understood. I sent her a long, emotional letter, aware, with each word I wrote, of the uselessness of it, overwhelmed by a sense of futile loss, of the appalling pain which Helen must be suffering.

There, at the funeral, in her exquisite black dress and long, black coat, she seemed to have been purged by pain. Now and again, she even smiled; a kind of wry, resigned, forgiving smile; the smile of a saint, I ached for her, yet at the same time there was something else, something wrong, a feeling I could not admit to consciousness, so that it lingered just beneath the threshold. I knew only that she should have looked... different.

She seemed scarcely even to have lost weight. Her face, handsome at its best and never pretty, was still full, the skin still clear and fresh. She looked, as always, healthy, like a Roman matron, serene but not sensual.

Afterwards when I came to her and kissed her, she turned her cheek to me with the same forgiving smile, the movement quick and studied. "Thank you, darling, thank you." There was no intimacy, I resented it, and felt ashamed of myself.

Then the interviews began.



Illustration by Robin Harris

There were many of them; the first in a popular daily paper beneath the headline, This woman with forgiveness in her heart.

"Helen Melton" it said, "feels no hatred, not even for the thug who shot down her beloved brilliant husband at the peak of his philanthropic career. People like that deserve pity," she says. "They are pawns in a brutal, sordid game. I know he didn't mean to kill my husband, and I know my husband wouldn't have wanted me to hate him. He was a man who lived his life for other people. He loathed all kinds of cruelty."

In the middle of the page there was a large photograph: Helen at home, with her two sons, one on either side of her, sitting on a sofa. She had an arm round each one's shoulder, but regarded neither. Her smile, displaying fine, white teeth was for the camera.

At last, I got to see her. Like others, I had offered to cook, to shop, to feed her children; but like others, I'd been courteously refused. She could manage, she said. When, on the telephone, I asked to her, city sympathy was met with a pause, a kind of short, ritual silence, implying grief unspoken; then she'd speak again, quite brightly, as if nothing had been said. It was a new Helen that one had to get used to. We had never been close, it was true, but we'd conversed, we had found a *modus vivendi*. There were schools to talk about, and shopping. There were children, au pairs, and Mr George. Now and again, one broke down on the shoals of her rigidity; there were passing moments when she gaffed, knew she had

gaffed, but went on with a quick and sickly smile. I wasn't one of Helen's group, one of the Hampstead Ladies, though I lived there; they took things for granted that I couldn't take at all. They seemed to sail through life like conquering galleons; impervious and armoured. For them and Helen, people still knew, or didn't know, "their place", still pulled, or didn't pull, "their weight", still were, or weren't "the right sort". Banded together, braying together, they made me feel inadequate and ill at ease. When I was alone with Helen she felt ill at ease. Perhaps that was why she wouldn't see me.

But seeing her now, there was no tension in the air, no unease. She patronized me from heights of her serenity, almost as though she were giving me an audience. "How nice of you to come!" she said. There was no shared past in her voice or in her manner; it might have been the first time she'd ever set eyes on me. Wanting to express sympathy, condolence, my own grief, I found it impossible. She was saying the things I'd read in newspaper interviews, she was saying the things I'd seen her say on television. Once more, I found myself trying to resist what I felt, that she was enjoying herself. Only once did her voice sharpen, when her *au pair*, a Spanish girl, timidly brought in the tea. "Put it there", she said, "no, there!" as the girl set the tray down on the wrong table. Otherwise, she was calm and controlled. "Work's been such a consolation", she said, and I remem-

bered her saying it on television, the week before, remembered even the smile with which She'd said it. "I think that's the best therapy of all, don't you? To help other people, when you need help yourself."

"But the boys..." I said. "Oh, they've been wonderful. Such a support to me! Jason's really become the man of the house. He bosses me about; it's sweet!"

Jason appeared: he had just come back from school. He was a tall boy with his mother's build but his father's delicate mouth and wistful eyes. There was a pall of melancholy about him that made me want to take him in my arms and hug him. He was only fourteen. I wanted to tell him how sorry I was; I sensed the great effort that he made to conquer grief, but with Helen there, all was cheerfulness and grit.

"Darling, do help Carmen with the dinner, or we'll be here till midnight. You know how hopeless she is with potatoes." And suddenly, subversively, I had a picture of her chucking unwashed mushrooms into the stew.

"All right," the boy said, and went out of the room. "And do walk properly, dear! Your shoulders!"

When he'd gone, she asked me, "Isn't he wonderful?" "You've all been wonderful," I said. It was the vague word, now, among the Hampstead Ladies. "Wasn't Helen wonderful?" On television, in the papers. "Wasn't she wonderful?" And not a trace of nerves! I would have been much happier if there had been, I had to remind myself of what I

knew about mourning, its dodges and its displacements.

Could it be a defence, a time out of war, a way to kill the pain? I felt guilty about my hostile feelings for her, disgusted by my own disgust which lurked there, ready to be brought to life by Helen in the newspapers, Helen on television, Helen, now, at dinner parties.

There was one in Fognal, given by a Hampstead Lady whose husband was an architect. An unattached man had been provided, a divorced publisher, a sad, quiet, grey haired figure who smiled occasionally at Helen with a pleading diffidence, and to whom she hardly spoke. We sat by candlelight at an alcove table and ate *blanquette de veau*, while Helen quipped it.

"She doesn't like him, I can tell", the hostess said to me, when I helped her carry in the coffee. "I mean, really like him: you know."

"Yes, I know," my hostess said, "and so hard to find another Peter."

If she wanted another Peter, I wasn't sure. There were more dinner parties, more unattached men, snubbed and ignored. Sometimes I was there, sometimes I just heard.

"He's just not good enough for her... He's just not Peter."

Peter's portrait hung in the hall, his photographs stood in her living room. Was it an illusion, or were there more of them than there had ever been when he was alive? As the weeks became months, as the months rolled by, as Helen smiled, dined, travelled and played squash, I saw that she was happy. Peter had gone; but she could never lose him, now. © Brian Glanville 1980

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SCHUMANN SERIES
Thursdays at 7.45 p.m.
16 April. JEAN-PHILIPPE COLLARD
Three Fantastiques
7 May. VLADO PERLEMUTER
Kreisleriana
Full programmes from 8 St. George's Terrace, NW1 8XJ (01-728 7142)
Tickets: £2.50, £3.70, £2.10, £1.60, £1.00

TCHAIKOVSKY
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
Conductor: MARCUS DODS
NUTCRACKER SUITE, SLEEPING BEAUTY WALTZ, ANDANTE
CANTABILE, TCHAIKOVSKY TOILETTE OBERON
SWAN LAKE SUITE, WALTZ from SERENADE FOR STRINGS
£2.75, £3.75, £2.50, £2.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
GIDON KREMER
Philip Ledger conductor
Back: Solo: No. 1 in C
Arvo Part: Concerto for violin and cello
Vivaldi: The Four Seasons
£1.60, £2.60, £3.50, £4.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

LUNCHEON MUSIC IN THE CITY
BISHOPSGATE HALL, 230 Bishopsgate, EC2
Tuesdays 1.05 to 1.50 p.m. Admission (including programme) 75p
7 April. PETER DONOHUE soprano
MARK TROTT piano
Schubert: Piano Sonata No. 14
Schubert: Piano Sonata No. 14
Schubert: Piano Sonata No. 14
£1.00, £2.00, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

THE PASSION
(According to St. John) — J. S. Bach
St. Paul's Festival Choir and Orchestra
(Leader Arthur Price)
Soloists: Peppy Holden, Anthony Ransom, Timothy Woodford
Harpichord Continuo: Anthony Greening
Organ: Peter Jones
Conductor: Richard M. Latham
Admission by Programme — at the door £2.00

GLC South Bank Concert Halls
General Manager: Michael Kaye
Ticket reservations only: 028 3191 Mondays to Saturdays
from 10am to 6pm. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sundays.
For information on ticket availability on day of performance only, see page 10.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
STUDENT STANDY TICKET SCHEME
For information on ticket availability on day of performance only, see page 10.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, Joe Luis Garcia (Director/Conductor)
WILLIAM BENNETT (Soloist), ANTHONY HALSTED (Soloist)
BACH: BRANDENBURG CONCERTO No. 5
VIVALDI: THE FOUR SEASONS
£2.25, £4.50, £4.50, £2.50, £1.75 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
THE LONDON CHORALE, New London Sinfonia, David Coleman (conductor), Elizabeth Ritchie (soloist)
Schubert: Symphony No. 11 in D major
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
MARTIN HUGHES (piano)
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
DAVID WARD (piano)
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
RICHARD HICKOK SINGERS, City of London Sinfonia
Marty Hill, Stephen Roberts, Clementine Machet, David Tove
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
JEAN-PHILIPPE COLLARD (piano)
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

PURCELL ROOM
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
ISABEL BEYER & HARVEY DAGUL
Duo for children's songs and old music by Mozart, Schubert, Haydn, Strauss, Brahms, Massenet, etc.
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

PURCELL ROOM
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
ANUP KUMAR SINGH (piano), Christopher Cox (piano)
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

PURCELL ROOM
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
ELIZABETH BRICE (soprano), Philip Thomas (piano)
Vivaldi: The Four Seasons
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

PURCELL ROOM
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
JILLIAN MACCALL (soprano), GILLIAN CRACKNELL (piano)
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D.557
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

ENTERTAINMENTS
ALBANY-ORCHESTRA SHOW GUIDE
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST
RITA TOMPOOLEY
DUET FOR ONE, PAL JOE
CREDIT CARD SALES 379 6665
LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
Today 4 April 8.00 p.m. GIBELLY, MCDONALD
Toni: Roanne, Jolley, McKelvey
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Wigmore Hall
Manager: William Lyne
Tickets from Wigmore Hall, 58 Wigmore St., W1
Tel: 01-333 2141

Wigmore Hall
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
RAQUEL BOLDORINI
Unaccompanied piano
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-333 2141) & Agents

Wigmore Hall
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
MARTIN WILKINSON
Unaccompanied piano
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-333 2141) & Agents

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ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
Tuesday, 7th April, 6.00 p.m.
ST JOHN PASSION
BACH
Evangelist: Alan Green
Soloist: Geoffrey Lloyd
Organ Continuo: Christopher Davis
The Special Services Choir
The London Bach Orchestra
Conductor: Barry Rose
Admission Free—Collection

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
PALM SUNDAY
12th April 6.30 p.m.
STEARAT MATER
DVOŘAK
Valerie Hill, Soprano
Peter Hill, Tenor
Gordon Shaw, Bass
The St. Paul's Chorus
The St. Paul's Chorus
Conductor: Andrew Parnham
Admission Free—Collection

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
GOOD FRIDAY
13th April 6.30 p.m.
ST MATTHEW PASSION
BACH
Evangelist: Peter Hill
Soloist: Geoffrey Lloyd
Organ Continuo: Christopher Davis
The Special Services Choir
The London Bach Orchestra
Conductor: Barry Rose
Admission Free—Collection

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
KINGS HEAD 225, 1015, Day 7
Soloist: Geoffrey Lloyd
Organ Continuo: Christopher Davis
The Special Services Choir
The London Bach Orchestra
Conductor: Barry Rose
Admission Free—Collection

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
Today 4 April 7.30 p.m.
KINGS HEAD 225, 1015, Day 7
Soloist: Geoffrey Lloyd
Organ Continuo: Christopher Davis
The Special Services Choir
The London Bach Orchestra
Conductor: Barry Rose
Admission Free—Collection

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
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Admission Free—Collection

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St John's Smith Square
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ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE
Tonight 4 April 7.30 p.m.
LONDON STUDENT CHORALE
ADDITION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Conductor: VAUGHAN MEAKINS
£2.50, £3.50, £4.00, £5.00, £6.00 from Hall (01-222 1061)

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Gardening

Weeds to watch

From now on three thoughts should be in the mind of the conscientious gardener — weed control, watering if need be and staking and tying.

Weeding and staking need to be done at a very early stage, as soon as the seedlings and weeds are large enough to handle. A delay of a week or so can give young seedlings a serious shock from which they never fully recover. Light soils may well need watering after eight or 10 days without rain in April. Heavier soils which retain moisture better can go a bit longer. Watch all trees, shrubs and other plants out on stumps, last autumn and see that they do not want for water.

Provided water is available for newly seeded lawns I would always delay sowing until the end of April or even into May, when the ground has warmed up. The seed will germinate quickly and you need sow only at the rate of about an ounce and a quarter to the square yard. But you must be able to water it because a few dry days with hot sun can shrivel up the tiny seedlings.

We did some patching of worn areas last year using the new fine dwarf version of rye grass, Hunter, and we are very pleased with it. Introduced by Hurrest Garden Seeds, Wiltshire, it is available from stockists of Hurrest's Garden Pride Seeds in packs sufficient for about 10 square yards and 40 square yards. In case of difficulty write to the firm at the above address.

We covered the patches with clear plastic sheeting, having first made sure the soil was thoroughly moist. We sowed a rather larger patch at the end of October, not really expecting the seed to germinate, but under its plastic cover it soon came through and was already given a first light cut. The mild autumn and early winter favoured it, but I would not recommend sowing grass later than late August in the north or the end of September in the south.

Now let us again consider ground cover plants, but from a slightly different angle: perennial plants that will grow quickly and may be easily propagated. Of course some may grow more lushly and quickly than we might wish once they have covered the area and will have to be chopped back, but we can't have it both ways, and the more growth they make early on the sooner we can propagate a large number of plants and fill our empty spaces.

Ivy is a splendid ground cover plant. There are many varieties, green, gold, white and silver variegated, and they grow happily in sun or shade in a splendid ground cover. They may be increased rapidly by cuttings from the tips of shoots 3-4 in long in a mixture of equal parts by volume of peat and sand. This is best done in July or August. Keep the plants in a frame or under cloches until they are ready to plant out the following year.

The ivy is a curious plant; it will go on producing juvenile or climbing growth, sometimes called "runners", as long as there is something for them to cling to by their aerial roots. When the runners reach the limit of their support — a wall or fence, for example — they produce arborescent or woody growth that does not climb. If you take cuttings of these arborescent growths they make bushy shrubs which do not climb. Cuttings of the runners will produce plants that will continue to run or climb.

When planted as ground cover, most ivy and various other plants will tend to ramble up into any shrub or tree they

encounter. This must be discouraged. To hasten the coverage of an area it pays to pinch out the ends of the growths; these shoots may be used as cuttings. Banks are often difficult to cover but *Hypericum calycinum*, the Rose of Sharon, is happy enough on even the driest banks and is easily propagated by cuttings or by dividing the roots in autumn.

A good ground cover plant is the golden *Lonicera*, "Baggesen's Gold", to plant under shrubs or even in the open, but it does need to be clipped back hard each year. The clippings, short tips 2-3 in long, root easily in soil or even in a jam jar on the kitchen window sill.

Many plants, including ivy, will root happily in a jar of water. Frank Hanger, who was Curator of the Royal Horticultural Society's garden, used to say with the sweeping hyperbole beloved by my father's generation that anything will root in water if you leave it long enough.

I would not put any money on that, but it is amazing how cuttings of many plants will root in water. It is always worth trying a few cuttings of any plant in a jar of water with a couple of lumps of charcoal to keep it sweet.

I have never come across any reports of serious experiments with this method of propagation, and if any readers know of any large-scale trials that have been carried out I would be grateful if they would let me know.

From my inquiries I have only found that when trying to root cuttings of shrubs or other plants it is necessary to keep the water at a fairly high temperature — 65-70 deg F. So perhaps they should be placed on a shelf near a radiator, if possible, or in an electrically heated propagator. Sometimes cuttings rooted in water do not take kindly to being transferred to a potting compost. A compost for such cuttings should be very light and open, possibly half peat, half sharp sand or Perlite.

There are other climbing plants which will spread horizontally. Honeysuckles are very quick-growing and may be propagated by cuttings. The periwinkles, species and varieties of *Vinca*, are slow to start but once established spread a year or two spread rapidly and provide ample cutting material which roots easily.

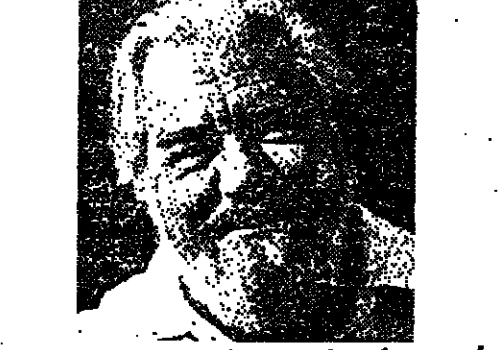
For flower beds or borders the lovely dwarf *Campanula persicifolia*, formerly *C. muralis*, a much nicer name, is a splendid plant. Evergreen, making close-packed foliage and lovely blue flowers in summer, it can be propagated rapidly by division in autumn or spring.

All the species of *Lamium* are superb ground covers and very easy to propagate. I would go first for the *Lamium maculatum* varieties because I found *L. galeobdolon* a bit rampant and itching to climb up into my roses when I underplanted a rose bed with it.

Slower growing is *subrieta*. It may be raised from seed quite cheaply and cuttings an inch or so long taken in June root easily enough, and with a bit of perseverance many square yards of ground may be covered in a year or two. The flowers are a joy in spring and, with a clip-over with shears after flowering, the plants will produce lush new growth. These shoots are the best to take for cuttings.

Roy Hay

Jersey brings out the smiles.



We love to come home for the holidays.
Guy Durrell.

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Although Jersey lies close to the coast of France, you'll be surprised how British it is. But this is a Britain with long hours of sunshine, smiling faces, a notable cuisine and an unhurried lifestyle. The good humour of the residents may have something to do with their low rates of duty and the total absence

of VAT, that makes shopping a special pleasure. The interior of the island is fresh and green. And the coastline will surprise you with its breathtaking bays. You can laze on a vast, uncrowded beach. Or, industriously follow your favourite sport. At night, you might head for one of the discos, dances or nightspots. And after each exciting day, you'll come up smiling for the next.

This year let Jersey bring out the smiles. Post the coupon for literature and details of our fine hotels and guesthouses to: States of Jersey Tourism, Dept. U, Weighbridge, St Helier, Jersey CI.

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Foreign, but only just



The busy fishing harbour of Audierne, Brittany

Soon after the Amoco Cadiz went aground off Brittany three years ago, spilling its cargo of 70 million tons of oil, I visited the area and was so impressed by the speed and efficiency of the clean-up operation that I advised British holiday-makers not to put off going there.

I have since travelled through Brittany on several occasions and have seen nothing to make me change my mind — and I have no doubt that the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease will be history before this year's main holiday season gets under way.

One place I would like to revisit is Trebeurden and the hotel, *Ti Al Lannec* there, a two-star establishment in the setting of an old house which has been extremely well adapted.

Recently I was travelling in the same region, having driven south from Cherbourg and turned west near Avranches, and was tempted to make a deviation to Trebeurden and stay there once again. Time did not permit, however, so I continued by way of Guingamp and Morlaix towards Brest.

Guingamp, a small medieval town in the Trieux valley, is an attractive spot to break your journey, but the main objective of the exercise was to visit some of the resorts scattered along the Biscay shore, from Concarneau down to Les Sables d'Olonne.

Whenever I am asked to recommend a location for a family holiday, especially when the children are young, Brittany is the area that springs first to

mind. The north coast resorts — Dinard, Sables d'Olonne, Le Val Andre, St Cast, St Brieuc and St Luniere along with many others — are well suited and many have beach clubs where children may play under adequate supervision. The south coast, to which I travelled on this occasion, offers a similar variety of small resorts such as Benodet and Quimper.

My journey took me first to Concarneau, a small but lively fishing port with a medieval walled town standing on a small island in the harbour and linked to the mainland by two bridges. The best beaches lie to the south and it is here that the "family" hotels are to be found.

Further south (south-east rather) is the peninsula and town of Quiberon and yet more excellent beaches. Nearby Penherville offers a combination of dunes and pinewoods, and this particular stretch of coastline is deservedly popular.

I was particularly interested to learn that facilities for self-catering holidays have greatly expanded along this coast, with a few variations on the camping theme: frame tents ready erected and fully equipped on a number of sites, as well as some smart caravans. All of these would be had as the ingredients of an inclusive holiday arranged by travel companies in Britain, with the option of having all your travel arrangements built into the "package" or making your own way there.

Of the locations, I was particularly impressed by the four-star camp site at Pont

Aven near Concarneau, as well as the sites at St Hilaire de Riez (Camping des Biches) and at the Pointe de Penhins (Camping de la Madone).

That last is fairly close to the small town of La Roche-Bernard, which stands on the southeast bank of the River Vilaine. It is a sailing centre and was one of the places on the itinerary of a very different kind of Breton holiday which I also sampled last year. That was along the inland waterways of Brittany, specifically the Vilaine and the Canal de Nantes a Brest. That last is a misnomer, for although the canal runs from Nantes it does not reach Brest, for a stretch of it has fallen into disuse — picturesque but impassable.

However, La Roche-Bernard can be reached from the town of Messac, which was the base of operations for the cruising fleet, and a number of holiday makers spoke enthusiastically of their journeys there. The holiday company's information booklet suggested it as the destination for a long weekend cruise.

Inland waterway holidays are now very popular and the idea of linking them to Brittany's attraction for British families strikes me as being a good one. It enables them to enjoy the familiarities of inland waterway sailing — many of the boats are in fact from the Norfolk Broads — and the freedom of such holidays and at the same time add a not too-demanding taste of "abroad" to the deal.

Most of the people I met had

driven all the way, using the car ferry services via Cherbourg, St Malo and Roscoff. Many were experiencing Brittany for the first time and quite enjoying the fact that it was not widely foreign.

A couple from Leicester, with two children, aged nine and twelve, summed up Brittany's attractions: the journey was not too demanding, the boat provided a familiar style of accommodation (they had cruised previously on the Broads), the riverside towns and scenery were of great charm and interest and they could easily cater for themselves or eat out at any of the restaurants suggested in the information booklet. The strength of the pound against the franc meant they were getting excellent value for money and they had no qualms about cuisine or hygiene.

What they were doing, indeed, was providing a list of the reasons why British families have taken holidays in Brittany for generations. And I reflected that a few days ago that it will take more than a few items of bad news to diminish that appeal.

A good travel agent will be able to tell you about holidays to Brittany resorts, about those which offer accommodation in tents or caravans or enable you to travel the inland waterways. He should also be able to help with the independent travel arrangements.

John Carter

Clive Barnes/New York Notebook
Schnitzler's luck changes

tone and tenor of time and place must be maintained. If you can forgive Babe's unforgivable soliloquies, his version does work quite powerfully as a satirical melodrama — which is the aspect of the play the director, Arthur Penn, has eagerly seized. He stages the play as if he were staging Arthur Miller, which does splendidly for the superficial but misses the heart's bullseye.

People continue to explore Merce Cunningham while, in turn, Merce Cunningham continues to explore people. His group is still called the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and he obviously continues to use dancers, but one feels that his major interest now is with an art style that often uses dance almost peripherally. His company's two-week spring season opened at the City Centre with one new work and three old ones. Old is here a comparative term — during his first two New York programmes he is offering nothing more than three years old.

Cunningham is a poet of the banana skin, the high priest of the inevitable accident. Technically his style is a deliberately illogical collage of movements clearly dislocated or cleverly juxtaposed. It is abstract in one sense, because so often it has people not behaving as people, and yet dramatic, and often wryly witty, because it plays on our amused fears of the harmlessly unexpected.

There is an arbitrary quality to Cunningham's work that his admirers find enchanting, yet those less fortunately disposed may find merely arrogant and irritating. Despite the claims of his advocates for Cunningham's architectural, to many, myself included, most of the dances, which have no musical base, but an aural background of noise provided by trained musicians, have a quality of stoniness.

The new work is called *10's With Shoes*. The seven dancers are clad in black leotards and wear white pinballs. Mark Lancaster's decor consists of coloured panels in various blues, yellows and greens, all decorated with white squares. Against this, the performers, whose dance phrases were, according to the programme note, apparently in a count of 10, swing around with perky vivacity to a sound score by Martin Kalve consisting in part of dogs barking, cats miaowing and babies crying.

At one level it is arrant gimmickry; at another it is a microcosm representing the dissociated environment. Take your choice.

EEC farm price deal raises incomes by £325m in full year

House of Commons
The agreement reached in Brussels earlier this week on EEC farm prices for the coming year would enable British food and agriculture to continue to make an important contribution to the British economy while increasing food prices by only 1 per cent over a full year, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a statement.

The Opposition condemned the package as the worst settlement to come out of Brussels since Britain joined the European Community in 1973.

Mr Walker (Worcester, C) said: The price negotiations took place this year with a background of farm incomes having fallen substantially over the past two years through the devaluation of the pound in the United Kingdom farm incomes declined in real terms last year by 24 per cent.

We had three main aims in these negotiations: to obtain some budgetary measures to contain the cost of the common agricultural policy; to take proper account of the interests of consumers; and to obtain appropriate improvements to benefit the stability and the future of British agriculture.

Important measures were agreed which will assist in restraining the future costs of the common agricultural policy. On the basis of a British proposal, the Council agreed on the need to ensure that the 1981 budget appropriation for the milk is not exceeded and the Council of Ministers confirmed that they would take measures to limit surplus production and contain budgetary costs. The 1981 budget provision for milk is fixed at 10 per cent below that of the previous year.

Agreement was also reached to bring in common rules for arrangements for cereals in the marketing year 1982-1983 which will provide savings estimated at £59m. Intervention arrangements for beef will show savings of approximately £38m, and in one of the areas of fastest growing expenditure, what of processed fruit and vegetables, arrangements were reached which will save savings of approximately £40m.

Therefore in four areas of surplus or potential surplus, important savings of £137m are secured. The overall budgetary effects for the European Community in 1981 of the total package will be £186m and in a full 12 months £596m. Such an increase in the EEC budget for 1981 is 10 per cent of the current CAP budget.

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The Council took note of a Commission declaration which stated that there will be no need for supplementary budget for 1981; and that for the decisions taken in this package are consistent with ensuring the rate of increase in agricultural expenditure below the rate of increase in the Community's resources, and the Council took note to adopt in good time further measures which will prove necessary to achieve objectives.

With the support of the German and Dutch governments, we did very strongly in the mid of the Council our view that the rate of increase in agricultural expenditure should remain below the rate of increase in the Community's resources, and the Council took note to adopt in good time further measures which will prove necessary to achieve objectives.

For the consumer, I am pleased to report that the proposals supported by member states to reduce United Kingdom beef premium of course the beef premium will continue. Next year three schemes will bring savings likely to be worth about £300 direct benefit to the consumer. Indirect benefits that are available to consumers in other countries in the Community.

The overall effect of the increases will be less than the quarter of 1 per cent on the price index and approximately 1 per cent on food prices as a whole over the course of an entire year.

We also secured final agreement for the import of New Zealand butter and to the passing of regulation providing refunds to whisky importers.

The overall price increases have an important effect on the restoration of farm incomes. Package will provide £325m additional income for farmers in a full year. I am fully satisfied that the Commission strongly support other member states for a review of the CAP for 1982.

We obtained agreement that there should be no new law for the Community. I am sure that the management committee will consider arrangements to make the CAP more effective for intra-Community trade.

Opposition condemns 'worst settlement'

Mr Gavin Strang, an Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Edinburgh East, Lab) questioning Mr Walker on his statement said: The settlement is a profoundly damaging one to the interests of the British people. (Conservative protest.) It is almost certainly the worst farm price settlement since Britain entered in 1973.

Mr Walker should admit that the £500m increase in the nation's food bill will bear most heavily on poor families who already spend a high proportion of their income on food. He should also admit that the settlement is a profoundly damaging one to the interests of the British people. (Conservative protest.)

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remarks on the effect on prices. Under these proposals prices will go up 1 per cent an entire year; under the Government's proposals they will go up 10 per cent every year.

It is hard to argue that time when the Commission was waiting for input costs for agriculture arising across Europe be something like 12 per cent an increase in the price of food to stimulate food production.

On the French elections, the Minister of agriculture and Fisheries has stated that the number one aim of price fixing was to see that the green pound rate of the £ was substantially reduced by the time when the £ was on French trade. I am glad they failed in that attempt. Strong would like them to succeed in that attempt. (Murmurs.)

What is the matter percentage increase in farm incomes? Mr Walker: I cannot give an answer. It is likely that the costs of British agriculture rise more than the rest of the economy in the next few years. Terms of income — purely on settlement — there is likely to be in real terms a continuing fall in income.

Mr Anthony Marlow (North, North, C): As he has to take the opportunity to say that the CAP is a manifest disadvantage to the country, and as he has committed himself to a pledge that he would increase the CAP for items in structural support it would not be honourable to resign and let somebody else take the blame.

Mr Walker: I was sorry the enthusiasm over being anti-ministry led him yesterday to a factual inaccuracy. The press reports before the Co of Ministers meeting had it that the CAP was a manifest disadvantage to the country, and as he has committed himself to a pledge that he would increase the CAP for items in structural support it would not be honourable to resign and let somebody else take the blame.

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Plan for all schools to have micro-computer

There should be a statutory requirement to teach certain subjects within the school curriculum, Mr Gerald Neale (North Cornwall, C) said in opening a debate on the importance of school curriculum in preparing young people for work.

Responsibility for the curriculum lay with the state. They laid down statutory requirements on many matters, such as space, playing grounds, areas, lavatories, health and safety provisions, but they shrank back from laying down the basic requirements of the curriculum.

The statutory requirement of what was taught should be laid down by a statutory minimum standard.

With the growth in the use of electronics in commerce and industry the changing nature of the work would be changed. The Government should increase the financial provision which went to schools.

Mr Alfred Dubs, for the Opposition (Wandsworth, Battersea, South, Lab) said vocational training of young people should adapt to cope with going on the job.

There should be a specific educational aim to encourage all

young people to stay in education until the age of 16, and those from working class grounds who needed to move on some of the vocational training opportunities.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under Secretary of State for Education (Sutton and Chesham, C), said pupils up to the age of 16 were in schools. There was no intention of moving the examination for the age of 16. The Schools Council had been asked to look and see how assessment of achievement could be introduced to enhance the first time of the pupils who not go on to further education after the age of 16, and it was reported in 1982.

The department had made available the programme of work included the training of teachers. On Monday, the Prime Minister would be launching a new programme for the provision of equipment. The national programme would be launched in the full backing and financial support of the Department of Education. It would be a joint venture to provide a micro-computer in every school by the end of the year. Also on the agenda would be the distribution of the programme.

The debate was concluded. House adjourned 2.58 pm.

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing

Shoparound

with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound

Paint your own egg for Easter

The point about Easter presents is not price but originality, and if you are trying to keep the cost of giving down, teaching your grandmother to suck eggs could be a profitable pastime as hand-painted real eggs are popular but expensive — the better ones are around £5 each.

If you would like to see the professionals in action, Barbara Jate will be painting eggs at Liberty on April 6, 7 and 8 (her colourful eggs are £4.95 each) and Maria Jenkala will be demonstrating the traditional Ukrainian techniques of waxing and dyeing eggs at Barkers, Kensington High Street, between 12 and 4 pm today and in April 13 and 18.

Also at Barkers on April 10, 11, 15 and 16 between 10 am and 4 pm a member of the Egg Crafters Guild will show the techniques of making Fabergé-style eggs, decorated with crystal beads, braids and stones. Some will be for sale, from £5 for small eggs to £75 for an ostrich egg.

Easter is never likely to rival Christmas in the present-giving stakes, but small gifts with a chicken and egg theme are becoming more popular each year to put by the family breakfast plates on Easter Sunday, or to take to your holiday host and hostess.

Pot luck snooker for the cueless

played snooker with world champion Ray Reardon last week at the launch of a new dice game he is endorsing called Pot Luck. Well, perhaps I should not let my enthusiasm entirely eclipse truth — he showed me how to position my hand and actually let me use his cue and with such an instructor I assume the only reason the ball did not pop into the pocket was simply that my arms are too short.

You need no skill or guiding hand to play Pot Luck Snooker. The game consists of a "green baize" tray, a miniature wooden replica of a pool table and a selection of potted dice — red ones to "pot" the 15 reds, multi-coloured ones with a different coloured spot on each side to represent the other balls.

If you have ever watched snooker on television you will find the rules easy enough to understand, notching up your score as the dice turns up the colour you call. Your "break" ends if the colour shown is not the one you guessed.

It is one of those irritatingly impulsive games of chance for two or four players that could occupy many a wet half hour at a party and it is small enough to be handy for maintaining the lively equilibrium at airports and other delay-ridden terminals. A useful anti-boredom device for 199 from The Games Centre, 1 Hanway Street, London W1, and Just Games, 63 Brewer Street, London W1.



Conversation piece at a hen party.

You can make your own groups of red, white or black hens, 2in high, at 55p each from Liberty, Regent Street, London W1.



Above: Decorate for Easter in Scandinavian style by hanging wooden novelties from a budding branch. Colourful wooden eggs in packs of 12, £1.75, rabbits £1 a pair, chicken in egg 75p. Paper basket with flower border, £1.65. All from The Danish House, 16 Sloane Street, London SW1.

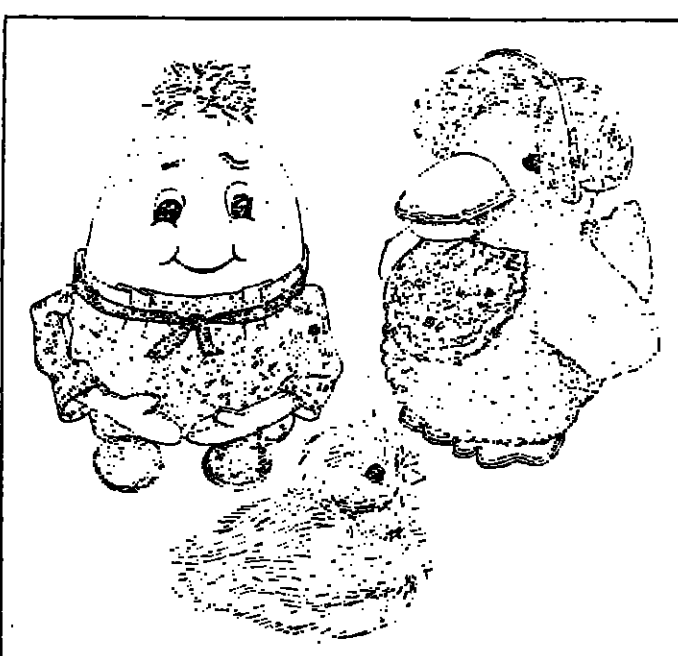
Add 25p p&p up to £2.50p from £2-£5. Over £5 post free. Above centre: Yellow or white egg "flowers" on long stems, £3.65 each from Heals, Tottenham Court Road, London W1. Above right: Liberty print Humpty Dumpty by Jackie Anderson, £13.95 from Liberty, Regent Street; endearing duck in flame resistant fleecy fur fabric, £4 including p&p by Angela Hartford, Pennine Craft, Bantel Works, Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Herts, 01-441 0220; amber fur fabric chicken, £2.34 plus 25p p&p from The Tree House, 237 Kensington High Street, London W8.



Egg on toast jigsaw comes in a giant plastic egg, 95p.

A set of six eggs, each containing a different jigsaw, packed in a cardboard egg box is £5.50, plus £1 p&p, from Cucina, 8 England's Lane, London NW3, or 4a Ladbroke Grove, London W11.

Jolly clown eggs with feet from a range of handpainted character eggs, £5.50 each from Heals.



Watch the cartoonist at work

If you are in London on Good Friday and Easter Monday you may be glad to know that the Neal Street Gallery, 56 Neal Street, London WC2, is staying open because their current exhibition is particularly attractive to children. It is all about animation and cartoons.

At one end of the gallery is a room set of an animation studio showing the various stages from the original brief, through the backgrounds, illustrations and preparation of cels (drawings on celluloid). During the run of the exhibition, until April 25, animators will be demonstrating their skills there. They will not be there all day, but you could telephone 01-379 7232 to make sure you don't miss them.

Some of the original drawings are for sale, from around £30 framed to £150, and there are limited editions of Walt Disney characters at £145-£250.

The exhibition is by no means just for children. A television in one corner showing cartoons and commercials will keep them happy while you study the graphics. It is fascinating to see how decorative they are in still form and how they translate to the moving screen.

John Painter, joint owner of the gallery, believes that some of the best and most imaginative work today is being done by commercial artists. "Gone are the days when artists had to starve in a garret. Today their commercial work is the foundation for the experimental films they really want to do."

The gallery is already, after only 18 months, one of the leading showplaces for illustration, photography and graphic art and I found the exhibition exciting, stimulating and entertaining. What more do you want from an Easter outing?

More holiday ideas for your diary: the Society of West End Theatre has combined with Childminders to enable young married couples to obtain reduced rates for babysitters.

Childminders normally charge a £10 temporary registration fee or a temporary booking fee of £2.50, in addition to the babysitting charges. Customers booking tickets at the Half Price Ticket Booth in Leicester Square can use both services at reduced rates, £2.50 off the registration fee or a waiver of the temporary fee.

For those within reach of Longleat House, Wiltshire, an interesting exhibition opens on Good Friday. For the first time, the Longleat Embroideries, stored for centuries in the attics, will be on show. They include the English Bed Set made around 1733 for Lady Louisa Carteret, who is now said to haunt the house in search of her murdered lover.

Because of the damage that can be caused by light, the embroideries will only be on show until September 30, but a collection of 17th century Dutch masters, previously crammed in an unused corridor, will be on permanent view from Easter.

piece of soft mantle (the edible bit of the creature) rather than a hard nucleus, being placed in a freshwater mussel. Many of these are farmed on Lake Biwa in Japan, but freshwater pearls can be found in mussels all over the world. Peter Knowles-Brown even has some freshwater pearls found by his grandfather in Hampstead Ponds.

The exhibition, at H. Knowles-Brown Ltd, 27 Hampstead High Street, London NW3, will continue until May 30 (closed on Mondays).

Who can resist a bargain?

London caught up with the provinces yesterday when its first Cookmate reject kitchen shop opened at 119 King Street, Hammersmith. There are already 32 such bargain bazaars in the country, specializing in clearance lines of cutlery, cookware, pine furniture and basketware.

They are all franchises, a chain begun by Brian Howlett when he bought the stock of Robert Carrier's two London cookshops when they closed in 1975. He set up his first reject shop in Hertfordshire, opened a second eight weeks later and within five years his turnover had reached £2 million a year.

After the first five successful Cookmates, a friend asked to be allowed to open under licence and there has been a steady demand for franchises ever since. The plan is to open two more a month from now until the end of 1985, for while 95 per cent of small retail businesses fail within their first five years of trading, only five per cent of franchises go the same way.

All the shops have the same fittings and display to give them an identity and licensees are given help with everything up to the shop opening — from labels and carriers to window dressing. Goods are centrally bought by

Cookmate's head office and there are special promotions each month — basketware is Hammersmith's opening offer, including door mats at 99p, Alibab baskets at £9.95, a 5ft round rush mat £5.25 and the inevitable Peacock chair, £39.95.

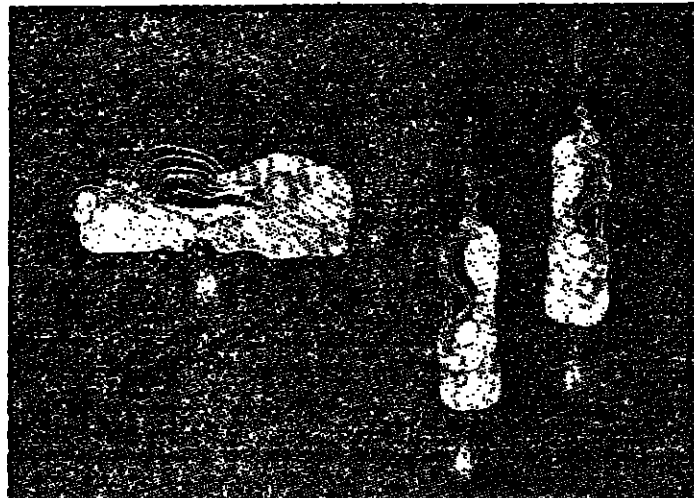
Among other bargains are director's chairs in natural or orange canvas at £9.95, kits of pine shelves at £6.15, pine bread bins, £10.65, candles in the shape of numbers, 18p each, cane plant trainers, 75p. For the address of your nearest Cookmate branch, write to Cookmate Ltd, 48 Friars Square, Aylesbury, Bucks, who will also give details of mail order.

Pearls that match every mood

An exhibition opening in Hampstead next Tuesday is devoted to that most female of jewels, the pearl. The organizers, Peter and Andrew Knowles-Brown, searched for jewellers who are passionate about pearls and found nine — all women, which, they say, "reflects no prejudice by anyone, but says something of the way in which pearls have fascinated females throughout the ages."

The thing that fascinates me about the collection and its designers is the versatility of the medium. No discreet companions for twinsets, these, but distinctive demonstrations of the ability of the pearl to adapt to a variety of moods from traditional to abstract.

Audrey Dryden-Brownlee, for instance, produces a layered effect in her pearl jewelry almost like applique with a frosted pearl finish; Susan Clarke conjures an image of the South Seas by blending pearls with the turquoise and deep blues of that



Brooch in 18ct gold with baroque pearl drop and cultured pearl, £377. Earrings with pearl drops, £202. Both by Audrey Dryden-Brownlee at H. Knowles-Brown, 27 Hampstead High Street, London NW3, from Tuesday.

most modern material, niobium.

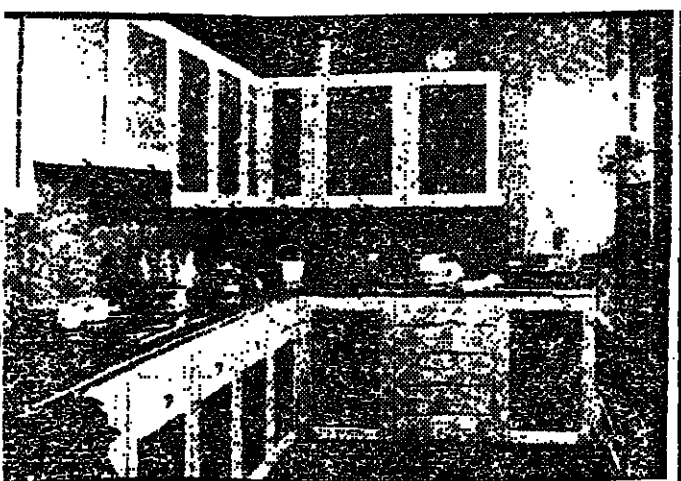
The most abstract work is by Abigail Fleissig and the most traditional by Cynthia Jenkins, whose necklace in fine gold set with pink sapphires, diamonds and pearls is the most expensive in the show at £3,500.

There are plenty of covetable pieces at lower prices, too. Earrings are from £20 to £50, or you could have a silver necklace set with coral and freshwater

pearls at £36 or one set with agate and black pearls at £87, both by Marilyn Nicholson.

Lustre and a good colour are the qualities to look for in pearls, whether natural, when the oyster covers a grain of sand with layers of nacre, or cultured, when a pearl bead is inserted to form the nucleus round which the pearl forms.

The latest development is non-nucleated pearls, the result of a



The sort of price you just cannot knock

al pine knock-together kitchen units at knock-down prices introduced this week by Kwiklok. They are excellent value and I know they are easy to assemble because they work the same Kwiklok principle the bedroom cupboards I bought last year. You need tools — they clip together with a smart bash of the fist, or, of the hand, as the publicity material more elegantly but less surely puts it.

All the units have pine rounds with laminated door panels in white, olive or brick. Drawer units are all pine and all the handles are recessed,

so there are no ugly knobs, which are the undoing of most cheap furniture. Work surfaces come in fake onyx or fake tile, but they are very believable — and ideal, I would suggest, for young home-builders with lots of demands on limited resources.

Travelling light

The first range of luggage by Yuki is on show at the Design Centre this week and it is everything you might expect from a designer of such sensuously flattering clothes. It is made of leather as soft and light as a pair of gloves and if fashion decreed that we all wore suitcases, I am sure you would feel most comfortable zipped into a Yuki holdall.

Weight, or rather the lack of it, was one of his main concerns in designing the range of 17 models for Papworth. "Luggage design is not just a question of shape and looks," says Yuki. "It is practicality. People travel light these days and they don't want to wait about at airports — they want something they can carry with them. So I have tried to make something beautiful that will hold a lot and still be compact."

The result is a range of cases, flight bags and briefcases with shoulder straps as well as handles; many have "office compartments" for papers and documents in the centre, which open like a book, with the clothes compartments on either side. There are two large suitcases, too, if you really need something roomier than hand luggage.

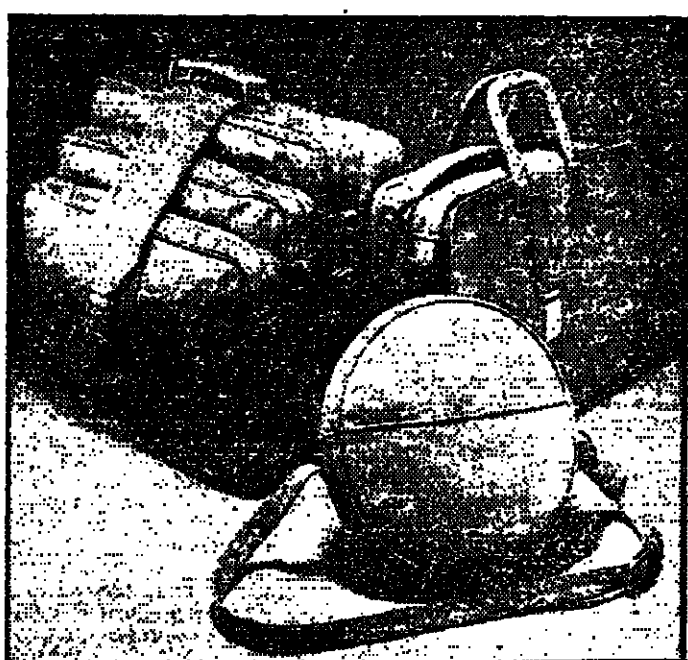
The phenomenon described by Papworth as "the rise of the woman executive" has produced

a particularly handsome shape which is smart enough to be used as a shoulder-cum-document bag in town, and spacious enough to accommodate some lunchtime shopping. Men will like it, too, as it is big enough to take overnight things and a clean shirt.

Great attention has been paid to detail. The leather was specially developed to be as light as possible and is dyed right through so that scratches and scuffs will be less noticeable and rain spots will not cause permanent marks. The linings are dyed to match and are beautifully finished. The fittings are solid brass.

The colour is called red sienna — a soft, brick shade which goes with most clothes and looks extremely stylish and expensive. Which it should be, because it is. A round shoulder bag, 10 1/2 in diameter, for instance, is about £53, a suitcase for two suits, with a coat-hanger and two interior zipper shirt pockets is £185.15, a concertina file case with one deep and one shallow compartment with a six-division file section, £223.

Some items from the range are now on show at The Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, London W1. These are for display only. Other models will be available by the end of the month at Asprey, Harrods and Austin Reed (Repet Street). Don't be surprised if prices vary. If you would like provincial stockists, write to Papworth, Papworth Everard, Cambridge CB3 9RG or telephone 0480 830345.



Soft, lightweight luggage in fine leather by Yuki for Papworth. Flight bag/holdall, £198, concertina file case, £223, round shoulder bag £53.16, from the range available at the end of April from Asprey, Harrods and Austin Reed, Regent Street.

Eggs? Try a basket

As sure as eggs is eggs and teeth is deatres there are some who will have nothing but chocolate for Easter. If you are among them, you may at least care to consider something a little different from the traditional hollow shell — a basket of home-made confections, for instance.

Angela Jay and Yvonne Field began their business four years ago with the vague feeling they "wanted to do something home-made". Jams and cakes were the first thought, but the high street competition would have swamped them, so they began looking at recipes for sweets.

They found one for marzipan, adapted it — and had the enterprise (or nerve) to walk into Fortnum and Mason with their first efforts. They came out with an order and, because they happened to have parked their

car by the Hotel Bristol, popped in there, too. Another success — an order for 30 baskets of sweetmeats which "threw us into a panic as we had never made more than two pounds of marzipan before."

Those experimental days are long past, as are their attempts to boil chocolate over pans of water, but the style and quality which won their first orders is still there. They don't like chocolate to be too sweet, so they have invented their own recipes. Their fillings are delicious, original and won high praise in this office.

For those outside London, the gifts that can be most successfully mailed are the boxes, £4.50 per pound plus £1.20 p&p, or baskets, decorated specially for Easter if you wish, £4.10 1/2 plus £1 p&p. For details of the range (they do named Easter eggs containing their own chocolate drops, too) and delivery charges, contact Village Fayre, 389 Uxbridge Road, Heston, Middlesex. 01-421-0363.

The lightest dark Blue in the race

Sportsview

Susan Brown, a 22-year-old Devonian, is likely to attract more attention today across the world than Lady Diana Spencer or Mrs Thatcher, unless Mrs Linda Sheedy, a 500-1 outsider, rides Deiopea to victory in the Grand National.

At 1 pm Susan Brown will win her rowing Blue as Oxford coxswain, the first woman to compete in the Boat Race in its 152-year history. Millions will focus on how Miss Brown navigates what can be a treacherous course. It is fitting, too, that today's BBC Boat Race commentary team will be joined by Penny Chuter, coach of the British Men's Heavyweight Eight.

It could be said that Mrs Shirley Williams played a hand in this affair: Susan Brown's rival for the Oxford cox's seat, Adrian Rossiter, resigned as a Boat Race candidate to help to steer a political party and work with the Social Democrats—Shirley Williams impressed him.

But even then Susan Brown was favourite for selection. This is not an Oxford gimmick—she was selected on merit from more than 30 men candidates for the cox's seat. Although weighing in at 6 stone 8lb, she is 20lb lighter than the Cambridge cox, Chris Wigglesworth.

It is steering ability that counts over the four-and-a-quarter mile voyage from Putney to Mortlake.

Ray Penney, one of the most experienced coxswains, gives some insight to the daunting task facing Miss Brown today. "The public image of a cox is a sack of potatoes sitting at the back of the boat shouting 'in, out, in, out'. Steering Oxford today will be like driving a Formula One car. It is mentally demanding and any adjustment to steering must be anticipated and made with fine precision or the shell will sink beneath her."

Overriding excessively by use of the rudder acts as a brake on a racing shell. Coxswains in the Boat Race have far from an easy ride and more than earn their Blue.

Wigglesworth and Miss Brown today will be negotiating a Queen's highway with no road markings to designate the right of way. Off the start they may be duelling for the centre of the tide or, if conditions are bad on any part of the course, abandoning it to seek shelter and judge the best route to Mortlake.

Miss Brown is fortunate in that she has a very experienced crew to handle, with six winning



Susan Brown: membership of Leander next?

Blues on board, including last year's president, Boris Rankov, and this year's Olympic silver medal winner, Chris Mahoney. The Oxford crew are odds-on favourites; they have shown no resentment to the blaze of publicity surrounding their coxswain, which could have been a sensitive sparkle in her eyes. "I'm embarrassed by it," she told me, recognising that her charges on the water have been left in a dark blue shadow. Coxing Oxford has left her no time for boy friends. But you sense by the sparkle in her eyes she has found job satisfaction in her role. Her rise to fame has been rapid. She only

took up coxing just over two years ago when she arrived at Wadham College to read biochemistry. Last year she coxed the British women's coxed fours in the Moscow Olympic regatta and through the national women's squad she gained her Tideway experience. By competing in the Oxford trials last December, she would, but for her sex, automatically become a candidate for election to the famous Leander Club. Now a special general meeting of Leander Club members has been called on April 25 to consider the admission of women as members. Miss Brown, however, will lose eight votes

because on that very day she will be steering the Oxford crew in a race against Cambridge 14,000 miles away in Tokyo.

The role of women in sport today cannot be ignored. Rowing is assisted by a recruiting campaign sponsored by the British Home Stores, who employ 27,000 women; over 2,600 oarswomen and scullers compete in the sport in England and Wales, compared with 980 in 1975. Women's rowing events were only introduced to the Olympic programme in 1976 and this year there will be two experimental women's events at Henley Royal Regatta.

Susan Brown is not a feminist. She is a modest and reserved young woman on the bank, but once in a racing shell she is an Iron Lady. She will have more than housewives cheering her on today as another male bastion falls.

Another woman figuring today in what is primarily a male-orientated sport is Jenny Pittman, the trainer of Lord Gulliver in the Grand National (her other horse, Artistic Prince, went lame and is a doubtful starter).

Jim Railton

Malta: the search for a new heroic role

Letter from Valletta

The strocchio makes people edgy, bringing an irritating haziness to the view across the Grand Harbour, and if anything should for the moment be banned from the island it ought to be this tedious gushiness from Africa rather than The Times which has been unobtainable by order of the government since March 9.

The sense of irritation is very real and does not depend on the weather. I cannot remember any time in Malta's recent history when there was so much tension in personal relations, so many allegations against political opponents, so much contentiousness in general. The opening theme of the latest pastoral from the Roman Catholic bishops was about the disturbing growth of political fanaticism.

Mr Dom Mintoff's erratic ways of running a government are partly to blame. He has held power now for nearly a decade and the strain on the nerves was bound to tell. As this is a letter and not a despatch I can properly admit to a degree of admiration for the Prime Minister despite the obvious faults which his close friends make no attempt to conceal. Malta is weighed down—visually even—by its heroic past. All those bastions and watch-towers reminded the young Dostoevsky of the medieval fortifications of Jerusalem and he very properly connected the Crusader presence in Jerusalem with that of the Knights in Malta. The Knights imposed on the island a huge role in fighting Islam and from their arrival in the sixteenth century the place was unfairly destined to massive importance on the Mediterranean stage, invariably as a base. But how does one emerge from a reality attached by history?

At his best, Mr Mintoff has tried to re-chart Malta's role. It has meant his break with the British presence, a virtual rejection of western diplomatic intimacy despite the fact that both the British High Commissioner and the American Chargé d'Affaires gamely stood through the "freedom day" ceremony on Tuesday called to mark the end of the British base. His foreign policy has also meant a period of close friendship with Libya, which has now broken down in bitter quarrelling. One of the main irritants, his opponents say, is that the Maltese for the first time in centuries simply no longer know where they stand.

A grey-haired man robustly filling out an elderly grown suit wave his hand towards the Grand Harbour and said: "you should have seen it full of the British fleet between the wars." I said: "my father did." He asked: "what ship was he in?" I replied: "Barham." As quick as a Mississippi card-sharper producing an ace he took out an old photograph from a pack in his pocket and pointed to the huge battleship on the left. "That's Barham in the Grand Harbour," he said, and gave me the photograph so that I could see how the ship with perhaps my father somewhere on it looked as it lay off Valletta.

He pointed to a group of dishevelled Arabs sitting on the ground near us. "Egyptians," he said with contempt. "They come here to get visas to go and work in Libya, and die the place while they are waiting." This may be an extreme case but it shows the difficulties some people feel in moving away from a heroic role.

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Mr Mintoff... after 10 years of reasonable coexistence, on bad terms again with the church and accused of eroding democracy

At least a part of this contentiousness could be ascribed to an attempt by Mr Mintoff, carefully but effectively, in heavy-handed way, to establish where authority lies within island which for centuries that authority imposed its outside. He places it firmly the executive. And so, after years of reasonable coexistence, he is once again on bad terms with the Church, and accused by the opposition of eroding democracy.

He is now worrying the profession, too, with the commission set up to examine the whole system of justice. Hear complaints against lawyers. And yet his own Attorney General, Mr Edgar Mizzi, who in office has just come an end, will not only be dealing with international disputes—above all, the dispute over the continental shelf in Libya—but is also returning to Malta with a new enthusiasm. Presumably he is not deterred by what did while in office.

Peter Nichol

Rather odd, not to say a bit rum

New words and new meanings: a series by Philip Howard

Let us turn our attention this week, brothers and sisters, not to a new word or meaning, but to a deficiency in the language. English has by far the largest vocabulary of any tongue that has babbled since the boys started to build a tower to reach unto heaven on a plain in the land of Shinar.

But there are still blanks in it. There is no word for Schadenfreude. We say that; that is because the English are such decent, agreeable people. Germans say there is a hole in the language. There is no way that you can say, "mutatis mutandis" in English without intolerable periphrasis.

C. H. Rolph, the learned and witty wordsmith on pen and most other matters, is looking for an adjective to fill another gap. We fill it at present with an ill-forgotten word of words such as extraordinary, strange, odd, and rum.

Here are some examples. "Aren't people extraordinary?" A person can be extraordinary; but it is quite impossible for people to be extraordinary. "Isn't it odd how everyone seems to think...?" If everybody does it, it cannot be odd, baby. "Strange that no one ever replies to such appeals." If no one does, it must be familiar, not strange. "Extraordinary name, Smith, really; I mean you find it coupled with absolutely anything..." "Isn't it odd that everybody says this kind of thing?" I certainly do. And so does dear C. H. Rolph.

There is a similar rum illogicality in the universal journalistic misuse of mean/means/mean't will mean. For example, from the romantic topic of the hour: "Lord Spencer's friendship with the Royal Family meant that the Queen is god-mother to..." Well, I see what he means, but, really, it didn't mean anything of the sort.

George Mikles, that most native of aliens, who writes better English than most of us, points out another black hole in the language. He declares that there is one expression he has particularly missed for 43 years, ever since he tried to learn our language. If it existed it would be "how manich?"—the equivalent of Wie veltet in German; or hampadik in Hungarian.

When one gets into a lift, the person nearest the buttons may ask: "Which floor?", which is a reasonable substitute to help one over the deficiency. But if you want to know how manich child a chap is in his family, you have to ask: "Any brothers or sisters?" Then, when he replies that he has seven brothers and eight sisters, you have to carry on with your prolix interrogation: "Are you the eldest among the boys?" We badly need how manich, and it is odd that our fecked and flexible language has not produced such a useful interrogative.

There are other gaps in the language, the most obvious one being the lack of a sexually neutral pronoun instead of his or hers. It also seems odd that a language that evolved, like all languages in a pastoral and agricultural society, should have no singular for the word cattle. We have to say heifer/cow or ox/bullock/bull, which is cumbersome and lumbering.

Is it really such a Benn bombshell?

Fred Emery

Granted that Mr Wedgwood Benn fished his comrades inside the Tribune Group of left-wing Labour MPs. Painfully for them, his 3.30 am announcement of his candidature for deputy leader pre-empted their 4 am effort, which he admitted to pre-empting. Granted also that with his retort: "It's a free country," Mr Benn is defying the judgment of his party leader. The question remains: Why has the Labour leadership become so hysterical about his decision to contest their first election?

By seeking to arouse the alarm of party division, while depicting it, have they some deep-laid plot to discredit Mr Benn? Or is he a bigger bogey to them than to the other parties? Are they scared that he might win the deputy leadership and lose the party the next election—or lose and reinforce Mr Healey, and still help lose the election?

The evidence points both to deliberation and to incipient panic. Mr Foot and Mr Healey have long had notice of Mr Benn's determination to stand. And they knew that Mr Foot had failed to dissuade him. They might have treated casually the actual announcement that he was going for the softest spot, the deputy leadership.

Or the centre-right's latter-day Labour fight-back group might have had the confidence of its bold predictions, to welcome the opportunity to beat off Mr Benn and put paid to his stark policy challenges for a while (well, another year, anyway).

But it is the left that is in control now, because of their panic. They have then all the hard-fought-for new policies go down with him.

Most interestingly it is on the Labour left that reaction has been most melodramatic. And let me say it is not "languid media inspired", as Mr Eric Heffer now writes of Labour's "difficult period" in the latest Labour Weekly. Mr Benn's various opponents stamped in trying to trample him. Mr Foot took the unprecedented step of

publicly calling on his Shadow Cabinet colleague to desist on the grounds that neither party nor country could take it. The same leader of the Opposition who relied on party pressures to overcome his own reluctance to enter last November's leadership election, summons up public pressure to keep Mr Benn out, for this year at least. Mr Healey, in Germany, is kept aware of the moves but refrains from comment: an ominous reminder to some of his supporters of the uncombative way he fought and lost to Mr Foot. Perhaps he is playing it cool, leaving it to the left to cut up rough.

Mr Benn's candidature is bound to be divisive; that is the way of politics. But his candidature is no more than the logical and relentless next step in his sustained campaign to democratize, or revolutionize, the party's structure and policies; to ensure, as he would put it, that the next Labour government does what the party conference says it must do. He has now had the fortrightness to state starkly all the policy choices that Mr Foot has been trying to fudge.

Once Mr Benn had told Mr Foot that he intended fighting an election which the party conference had just agreed to it is odd politics to try to stop him standing, whether by emotional appeal or by ridicule. Prevention can only fan the far left's well-developed sense of persecution.

Mr Benn will not be invulnerable during his campaign. When he professes that it's all done for policy and party unity and not for ambition he can be reminded of what he said last November when he disclaimed the election by MPs on the grounds that the process was "illegitimate": he would be a candidate, he said, once the new process was installed by party conference. Now he chooses not to take on the leader but the most winnable post.

He has in fact been itching to have a go at Mr Healey, Janan, Mr Benn left colleagues on the party's national executive committee with the clear



Mr Benn, not invulnerable

impression that he wanted them to hold the special election conference as early as next month. But from the Wembley conference rostrum Mr Clive Jenkins openly warned the NEC that union leaders did not want further contest of the party leadership immediately.

Mr Benn never agreed. In the meantime the Social Democrats have defected and the Labour fight-back against the Bennite reforms has begun. Mr Benn believes there may be still more MPs in the party of whom Labour would be well rid. It must be assumed that he does not trust the party leadership to steer Labour on to the fundamental left-wing course which he proclaims the sure-fire election winner.

He and his friends in the activist crusade of the so-called rank and file mobilizing committee want to "consolidate" the newly adopted left-wing policies, as they put it, and for that there can be no standstill, only pressing forward.

Although it may seem tedious to outsiders, many on the left will not easily

forgive the early hours caper in the Commons by which Mr Benn outwitted his pursuers. It transpires that most of his 16 sponsors had signed up by last Monday, but word of his impending announcement did not get out to the rest of the Tribunes until he had seen Mr Foot on Wednesday evening. At this point, well after midnight, remarking that Mr Benn had only joined the group on February 3, some of the younger Tribunes thought there ought to be a Tribune discussion "before any member commits himself publicly".

They drafted a letter to Mr Ian Mikardo, their veteran and highly experienced chairman. But in their innocence the letter's authors solicited advice and signatures from Mr Benn's sponsors, including Mr Mikardo, and Mr Robert Hughes, not realizing, until told, that they were such.

No outsider can be totally sure who, during that all-night session at the Commons, subsequently said what to whom. What is clear is that the letter writers decided to precipitate matters. They got up to 26 signatures. Mr Robin Cook went with the letter at 4 am to the Press Association office in the Commons only to find that Mr Benn had preceded him. Mr Cook went down to Mr Mikardo with his letter only to be told, correctly, as Mr Mikardo puts it in his letter of reply: "One of our members has already committed himself publicly and indeed did so before I received your letter."

In subsequent conversations around dawn Mr Hughes was misinterpreted as saying he was unhappy and believed, by fellow MPs, to be reconsidering his sponsorship of Mr Benn. Instead, it seems, Mr Hughes told them that with hindsight he could see that they had a case for being unhappy. But he will not defect from Mr Benn.

Mr Benn may say that elections heal and resolve choices. But of one thing his opponents can be certain: he never gives up, even when defeated. They can thank him at least that he has given them six clear months to prepare.

Uncaring young America

New York

An attempted assassination is different in scale from an actual assassination, both in its public consequences and in its impact on the emotions. Yet even taking that into account, many Americans, especially those in contact with young people, have detected a reaction here this week that contrasts significantly with that which followed the killings of the 1960s.

On the day following the attempt, newspapers all over the country published editorials saying wearily and sadly: "Here we go again." They foresaw another period of agonized self-questioning about the violence in American society and where it would lead the nation.

Yet to a surprising extent that has not occurred. Two reasons have already been much discussed. One is the President's own cheerful and carefree attitude towards the years people have become desensitized to such acts of violence. Television presumably has much to do with that. The New York Post calculated yesterday that in the week before the shooting, 16 fictional murders were committed on the three main television networks.

A third reason is that President Reagan is not, as President Kennedy was, a leader with whom the young identify. It was young Americans (by which I mean young Americans) who felt most desolate about the death of Kennedy and whose articulate anguish, reported worldwide, became the nation's reaction as recorded for posterity.

There is not much reason for young people to feel an emotional attachment to Mr Reagan. It is not simply that he is 70, but the policies with which he is associated—lower taxes for the rich, cuts in social services, support for tyrannical right-wing regimes—are the antithesis of youthful idealism.

Thus it was not really surprising that schoolchildren in Tulsa, Oklahoma, are reported to have cheered when they first heard the news of the shooting on Monday. In Cleveland, Ohio—a struggling industrial city, not part of Mr Reagan's natural constituency—people telephoned television stations angrily on Monday afternoon, complaining that their favourite programmes had been cancelled for live coverage of the aftermath of the attack.

In Philadelphia, Dominic Manno, columnist for the University of Pennsylvania's student newspaper, wrote that his first reaction to the news was "too bad he missed". Then when he heard that the President had been hit, he thought: "I hope he dies." He was later questioned by two Secret Service Agents.

It scarcely needs stressing that this is the view of an unrepresentative minority. Some young people believe it is smart to be callous. America is essentially a decent country whose citizens deplore attempts to enforce political change by assassination.

Yet for every Dominic Manno there are hundreds of thousands of youngsters who care little enough for Mr Reagan and for the political system which brought him to office to remain detached and indifferent about his fate.

We may have been seeing this week a pointer to a new and more militant mood on college campuses and among young people in the cities.

Michael Leapman

Face to face in Fermanagh



Fermanagh's choice: Unionist Harold West or Maze prisoner Robert Sands.

countrywide eight miles from Belfast. Mr West is operating from his splendid farmhouse outside Enniskillen, the only proper town in the rural lake-country of Fermanagh.

On paper Mr Sands, serving 14 years for possession of firearms, should win the election. There is a nationalist majority over the Unionists of about 6,000—but many Roman Catholics will abstain rather than support an IRA man; the outcome is therefore not entirely predictable.

He has been on hunger strike since March 1 in support of political status. He cannot, and will not call off his

fast without a powerful reason and nobody can be sure whether success in the election would be reason enough. Probably, it would not.

Provisional Sinn Féin says Mr Sands will immediately resign if he wins, thus precipitating another by-election in which neither he nor any Sinn Féin candidate would participate. To be the sole representative of the nationalist side is already a victory in itself, whatever the outcome of the poll; to win would be a propaganda sensation.

Mr Sands became the only anti-Unionist runner because of the exceptional gift of guile

and taste for intrigue repeatedly demonstrated by Provisional Sinn Féin, whose propaganda machine leaves its rivals standing.

The moderate Social Democratic and Labour Party was deftly outmanoeuvred and is now in danger of tearing itself apart by internal squabbling. The decision to withdraw its candidate in order to concentrate resources on the local elections in May in the belief that one or more candidates other than Mr Sands would fight the nationalist corner, may prove to be one of the decisive mistakes of a usually talented leadership.

What they have done is leave the nationally-minded Roman Catholics of Fermanagh and South Tyrone with a choice of voting for a man violence, or not voting at all; and many of them are angry and bewildered.

There is a historical precedent for this remarkable election Philip Clarke, a 35-year-old civil servant from Dublin, was serving ten years for treason after an IRA raid on Omagh military barracks. Tyrone, captured the constituency for Sinn Féin in 1979 by 261 votes. He was the only nationalist candidate and I sole rival was a model of British ascendancy in Ireland Lt Col R. C. Grosvenor.

The seat was granted Colonel Grosvenor by a High Court judge presiding over petition court in Enniskillen because of a now defunct rule under the Forfeitures Act 1870 which stated that anyone serving more than 12 months in prison could not enter the Commons.

In the 10 polls since the constituency was created before the 1950 election, nationalist candidates have been elected six times.

Mr Sands, in an election address smuggled from his Maze, declares: "There is but one issue at stake—the right of human dignity for Irishmen and women who are imprisoned for taking part in the period of the independence."

Mr West said in his manifesto that Ulster's links with the Crown and place within the United Kingdom must be maintained and strengthened.

And in those opposing comments from two very different Irishmen lies the essence of the country's tragedy.

Christopher Thomas



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FROM WHITEHALL TO BOARDROOM

Former poachers sometimes make excellent gamekeepers, it is said, and vice versa. A lively interchange of knowledge and skill between the two occupations would contribute to the advancement of both, supposing that that was a desirable object. But some doubt might arise whether those serving for the time being as gamekeepers really had their hearts in it. It is similar with the Civil Service and the world of business and industry. It is healthy for both sides to have a close understanding of the motives and pressures affecting the other, and movement between the two helps to bring this about. It would be better if there was more movement than there is, especially into the public service from outside. But the interchange can create conflicts of interest, arising especially in the enlarged area of public contracts.

The Commons committee which has been examining these problems reported this week, but still is unconvinced as to whether the existing processes for preventing public servants from exploiting their inside knowledge for their private profit (either before or after leaving the service) were adequate.

A confidential committee exists

to advise the Prime Minister when Crown servants of the rank of under-secretary or above propose to take work, within two years of their resignation or retirement, in firms they had regular professional dealings with. The Prime Minister may forbid the former official to take the appointment, but no formal powers exist to enforce this. In the United States, by contrast, fines and prison sentences of up to two years can be imposed for the breach of an extensive and specific set of rules.

The number of cases which have aroused public disquiet since the present rules were introduced in 1975 is small—half a dozen at most. In almost all of those, the disquiet was probably groundless. But small numbers do not mean that the rules are working well. The controversial cases, which naturally tended to involve very senior public servants, aroused fears and suspicions about the service which the present system is poorly adapted to set at rest. The advisory committee works without external scrutiny, and it is mainly made up of public servants, or former public servants, who might understandably be thought to take an indulgent view of colleagues' lucrative

appointments. Nor do the rules have anything to say about taking appointments with foreign governments, nor about trading on one's inside knowledge as a self-employed consultant, nor about areas like the health service and local government, where responsibilities and temptations can also be great.

There is no reason to think abuses are common. But it is essential to guard against the possibility. New rules should not create obstacles to legitimate movement from one sector to the other, nor, obviously, risk disclosure of the confidential information that they exist to protect. The suggestions put forward by the report this week point the way to more satisfactory rules. The advisory committee should be able to consider issues from a viewpoint outside the public service. Its operations should be open to scrutiny by a parliamentary committee, sitting in private when necessary but able to comment publicly as it saw fit. Similar parliamentary scrutiny exists in the field of defence without apparent danger to security. Changes along these lines would not imply that public servants abuse their position, but would help to put them above suspicion.

Lessons from the Reagan shooting

From the Chief Rabbi
Sir, It seems that some most vital lessons have so far escaped notice in the massive media coverage and comments on the Reagan assassination attempt which, literally by an inch, missed plunging the Free World into a major crisis by once again traumatizing America and paralyzing its power, possibly for years to come.

John Hinckley, the accused assassin, was brought up in wealth (although his parents' fortunes were deeply for his welfare). He was reportedly obsessed to avenge an unrequited love by killing a President after seeing a film which planted this perverse idea in his head. And he was a member of the American Nazi Party.

Some conclusions appear indicated. Wealth without responsibility is a great menace to society as poverty without relief. Children who have everything and have never known what it means to struggle are no less at risk in becoming social misfits than the deprived.

We cannot accept that violence on the screen bears little relation to the rising crime rate. This argument should now be exposed as unreasoned and dangerous.

Clearly the advocates of race hatred and discrimination do not limit their victims to Jews and blacks. The German Nazis also began with the Jews and ended with the destruction of 20 million lives in history's greatest bloodbath. Gypsies, promoting hate should be outlawed, and their propaganda suppressed as posing a greater danger to society than drugs or smoking.

These lessons are just as urgent as the obvious need for gun control. By a strange irony, no one is personally better qualified to win popular support for these measures than President Reagan himself. He is wealthy, he is a hero of the film industry, he has been a victim of racist madness, and he has been a supporter of the gun lobby. Our prayers are for his moral stamina in ridding the world of evils which threaten the lives of millions as they nearly ended his own.

Yours sincerely,
I. JAKOBOWITZ,
Office of the Chief Rabbi,
Adler House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
April 2.

Security risks

From Brigadier D. C. Blomfield-Smith (Retired)

Sir, Three primary tasks for anyone working for the Russian intelligence service in this country are to be, 1, to obtain classified information about our Armed Services, by any means and without undue scruple; 2, to sabotage the special relationship and confidence between the United States and United Kingdom intelligence services by discrediting the latter; 3, when necessary, to distract attention and divert effort which might otherwise prove embarrassing to Russian intelligence. In the light of these facts can we be 100 per cent sure that Mr Pincher is not an agent of the Russian intelligence service? I am not, of course, saying that he is, only that it would be interesting to know whether his access to highly classified information became "Britain's foremost authority on espionage". I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
D. C. BLOMFIELD-SMITH,
Wicken Brook,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.
March 31.

Evangelical views

From Dr P. J. Giddings

Sir, It is said that your Religious Affairs Correspondent is unable to follow your newspaper's tradition for objectivity when reporting (March 30) events involving Evangelical Christians. Mr. Fourley may not agree with Evangelical theology; he may not share our form of social concern; he may even choose to ignore the many examples of Evangelical piety. But to present his selective prejudices in the guise of a factual report of the opening of a shared building, under a headline suggesting an analysis of the state of English Evangelicalism, falls well below the standard of journalistic objectivity expected from your newspaper.

Mr. Longley implies that Evangelicalism discounts intellectual effort and doubts the sincerity and validity of Christian traditions. Well might one retort: physician, heal thyself!
Yours faithfully,
P. J. GIDDINGS, Warden,
University of Reading,
Mansfield Hall,
Reading Road,
Reading,
Berkshire.
March 30.

Dickens plagiarisms

From the Curator of The Dickens House Museum

Sir, Paul Inghart and the Saturday Review are both to be congratulated on their article on contemporary plagiarisms of Dickens (March 28).

Readers especially interested in the subject may be pleased to know that an important collection of such plagiarisms has recently been acquired by the Dickens House, thanks to the generosity of the late Leslie C. Stables, for many years editor of *The Dickensian*, and almost a lifetime member of the Dickens Fellowship. Together with other valuable items, he bequeathed to the house nearly 100 separate titles in this field, including those mentioned by Mr. Inghart, and such rarities as Nicholas Nickleby by "Bo".

The collection has been catalogued and is ready for use by researchers. A longer report on it will appear in the summer issue of *The Dickensian*.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID PARKER, Curator,
The Dickens House Museum,
48 Doughty Street, WC1.
March 31.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beating inflation key to recovery

From Professor F. A. Hayek, FBA

Sir, It should surprise no one that the last generation of British economists who had succumbed to the teaching of Lord Keynes would form a panicky mob when a reversal of the policies they had inspired reveals the damage they have done. They significantly can only refer to, but cannot specify, the "other methods" by which their professed aim can be achieved. (Letter from 204 economists to Mr Thatcher.)

Following their advice has induced a structure of employment that can be maintained only by accelerating inflation but which collapses when it becomes a gallop and destroys any possibility of a rational use of resources. Nobody has ever claimed that so long as it is necessary to reduce inflation to get out of this vicious circle the effect can be anything but a rational use of resources.

Only after inflation has been brought to a full stop can the market be expected to guide workers to jobs which can be maintained without accelerating inflation. All those who plead for "mild" inflation are merely preparing the ground for a later depression.

If the present Government, I do believe its head, can be blamed for anything, it is for going too slowly about the job. A few more months than have been in these pages, even a very high unemployment level, will be borne in a short time. It leads to a few months to a condition of monetary stability in the course of which workers are drawn into employment that will continue without new inflation. All employment which can be maintained only by (even moderate) inflation is a waste of resources for

which we shall have to pay later by renewed growth of unemployment.

Least the readers, he unduly impressed by the sheer numbers of the signers of the statement I may perhaps add that, so far as I can see, less than a quarter of the economists who are Fellows of the British Academy have signed that statement.

F. A. HAYEK,

University of Freiburg,

500 Freiburg,

West Germany,

April 1.

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, As an economist who was not invited to sign the petition against government policy, I read the list of 364 names with special interest. With a few honourable exceptions, the more prominent signatories read like a charge sheet of those responsible for Britain's relative economic decline since the war. Their lack of stomach for perceiving the inflation problem also have something to do with their complacent enjoyment of indexed pensions. All honour, therefore, to the majority who did not sign.

The most disturbing feature of the catalogue is the wholly unrepresentative predominance of economists from the once-famous faculty at Cambridge which launched the petition with a block vote of 32. As an old Cambridge man, I once jestingly referred to the "temporarily rolled down on the Marshallian school". The long list of mostly unknown signatories from Cambridge suggests that readiness to sign this kind of essentially political statement has been a "academic" preference.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HARRIS,
House of Lords.

State's role in appointment of bishops

From Canon D. R. Jones

Sir, When in 1976 new procedures were agreed between Church and State for the appointment of diocesan bishops, many of us hailed this as a reasonable solution to a long-standing grievance in the Church. Without disestablishment and its time-wasting, the agreement seemed to give the Church the effective voice in the choice of its episcopal leaders.

Those of us who supported this development were however aware that the insistence on a final choice between two names by the Prime Minister would have to be balanced by a willingness to observe the spirit of the agreement. We understand that the Prime Minister could not constitutionally be a rubber stamp, but would normally accept the Church's first choice and that there would have to be powerful reasons for insisting on the letter of the agreement and rejecting that choice.

We are bound to ask what were the powerful reasons in the case of the choice of a bishop for the diocese of London, if the confidentiality assumed for such appointments has been penetrated by some skilful listening, interpreting and reporting. This may be a good thing, since otherwise the Church has no means of generating the confidence that her procedures are correct.

Three reasons for the Prime Minister's intervention may be guessed.

(1) The first is that she has submitted to lobbying. If the new system were to be such that the final choice could be influenced by lobbying the Prime Minister, the precedent would raise a horrifying prospect. The Church would react against the system and change it.

(2) A second reason is that the Prime Minister became convinced that the present official policies of the General Synod should be checked by the appointment of a notably independent character to the third seat. Many who would sympathise with a motive will nevertheless deplore the notion that the Prime Minister has the right to bring the Church to heel. This again would ultimately lead the Church to change the system.

(3) Or was it that the Prime Minister, through the advice available to her, believed she knew better than the Church through its agreed and complex procedures? If this were so, we would have to conclude that the new system is as vulnerable as the old.

Or is there some other reason that escapes the imagination? Unless

something convincing and reassuring comes up, the conclusion for many churchmen will be that the new procedures are no guarantee that the Church effectively chooses her leaders either by letter or in the spirit. It may well be not the least of the follies of the Prime Minister to create disillusionment in moderate churchmen who were eager to claim the reality of freedom without the need for radical surgery.

Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS JONES, Lightfoot Professor of Divinity,
Department of Theology,
University of Durham,
Abbey House,
Palace Green,
Durham.
April 2.

From Canon Spencer Wilson

Sir, Canon Oestreicher's comments (letter, April 2) are based on the mistaken assumption that the Church's Crown Appointments Commission's second choice would be a man unacceptable to the Church.

Surely in submitting two names to the Prime Minister the Commission would choose two acceptable men, but show a preference. When the second man, as in the present case, is selected he is none the less acceptable to the Church. Yours faithfully,
SPENCER WILSON,
The Vicarage,
169 Church Road,
Haydock,
St Helens,
Merseyside.

From Bishop W. Warren Hunt

Sir, The Hawick Commission on Crown Appointments in the Church, of which I was a member, considered the formation of such a body as we now have in the General Synod's appointment committee.

We decided that however confidential the members of such a committee were asked to keep their deliberations and decisions there were almost bound to be leakages. How right we were, as the present situation over the appointment to the London diocese shows and as was previously shown over the appointment to Birmingham.

If the Church is to retain the present system the answer is not disestablishment, as Canon Paul Oestreicher (April 2) proposes, but for those who are put into confidential positions to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest what "confidential" means.

Yours faithfully,
WARREN HUNT,
15 Lynch Down,
Farnham,
Surrey.

Mr Chichester,
West Sussex.

Food production priorities

From Dr Alan Long

Sir, The output of the next British grain harvest is forecast to reach 19 million tons, with available stocks for the year 1980-81 running at about 23 million tons, of which 11 million tons will be used to feed farm animals and nine million tons will go into food for human consumption or be used for industrial purposes. We shall have to import a whole harvest of three million tons of maize to feed intensively reared poultry and pigs, as well as about a million tons of protein feeds, for boosting yields of meat and milk from animals unable to meet modern demands for production from grass alone.

Out of the annual consumption of five million tons of wheat for flour and bread only three million tons will be home grown, because British farmers surfeit the market with feed-wheat while we have to import expensive North American and EEC wheat to make bread, much of which is a white product depleted in some of its most important elements to furnish cereals. Our exports of cereals are likely to reach a new peak at three million tons, most of it barley for brewing.

Since 1950 cereal-yields per hectare have doubled in Western world. Meat-production and dairy-farming dominate British farming, which has degenerated into an animal-feeding industry, cruelly working off plums of cereals and keeping prices out of reach of the hungry

in poorer nations. Our miserable performance as a British still has to import meat—is accentuated by our neglect of forestry: our land is sparsely wooded and we have to import over 90 per cent of our timber and tree-products.

Britain can shoulder its responsibilities in the world's food supplies (letter, March 16) by an understanding among consumers and producers that we should reduce the greed for meat and milk and cater for our need by growing food rather than feed. Both our health and our reputation would be enhanced.

Good wishes,
ALAN LONG,
The Vegetarian Society of the United Kingdom Ltd,
52 Marlborough Road, W8.

Out for the count

From Mr Andrew Kirby

Sir, Might I suggest that on the night of April 3-6, readers who particularly dislike the intrusive nature of certain government activities hold a Census Party?

As many people as possible should be invited to stay for as much of the night as they can, and as they leave should be entered on their last census form.

After all such an opportunity only comes once every 10 years, surely it behoves us to celebrate it in true style?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW KIRBY,
61 Guildford Park Avenue,
Guildford,
Surrey.

The impact of jury verdicts

From Lord Devlin, FBA

Sir, Your Legal Correspondent reports (April 1) that as a result of "the Moonies case", which lasted for six months, the law is to be changed. He draws attention to an amendment to the Supreme Court Bill, as present in the House of Lords, to provide for non-jury trial in libel cases of unusual length.

The Moonies is the sort of case in which the verdict of a jury gives much greater satisfaction in the public than the opinion of a judge, however able. It would be better if, before the law is changed, the legal profession were to give serious consideration to the question whether a trial that lasts so long is really necessary in order to do justice. Yours, etc.
DEVLIN,
West Wick House,
Pewsey,
Wiltshire.
April 1.

USSR aid to terrorists

From Professor Paul Wilkinson

Sir, The CIA's reported denial of Soviet involvement in international terrorism (March 30) will astonish experienced students of the subject, and is evidence of growing confusion in the American debate on this subject. There is an urgent need for some brief clarification.

Although it would be absurd to pretend that the CIA's masterminds of international terrorism, or that terrorism needs sponsor states in order to exist, there is overwhelming evidence that Soviet aid reaches many terrorist movements. This takes the form of training, weapons, and "diplomatic assistance", often channelled through intermediaries such as Cuba, the PLO, Bulgaria and East Germany.

Not surprisingly the Soviet Union officially disavows international terrorism, but they make no secret of their aid to selected "national liberation struggles", which often amounts to the same thing. Nor are they too fussy about the ideological rectitude of their protégés. They are quite happy to exploit terrorism on an opportunistic basis in combination with other methods, to weaken or subvert non-communist states.

The complex processes of Soviet involvement in terrorism have been carefully analysed by Western specialists since the early 1970s. The general view is that its somewhat battered reputation by misinforming the United States Government and public on a significant international problem. Yours sincerely,
PAUL WILKINSON,
Department of Politics,
University of Aberystwyth,
Edwards Wright Building,
Old Aberystwyth,
March 30.

The broad view of art

From the Chairman of the Association of Art Historians and Others

Sir, Over the next three years the Council for National Academic Awards intends to phase out its History of Art/Design and Complementary Studies Board, which has hitherto overseen the historical and academic content of degrees in art and design and to replace it by individual representatives on the different subject boards—fine art, graphic design, fashion, etc.

Although it looks like a simple organisational change, this plan, which has been pushed through with extraordinary haste, would we believe be disastrous for the future of art education in this country.

What is at issue is the breadth and overall content of art and design education and their status as an education rather than a training. Art and design students taking BA degrees have the right not only to historical studies professionally taught, but to a whole range of educational possibilities outside their particular subject, and it is to offer these possibilities in a structured way across the whole field of art and design that History of Art/Design and Complementary Studies departments exist.

To deprive them of their independent voice is to threaten their very existence. We cannot believe that this is the council's intention and we strongly urge it to change its mind.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEER,
PETER DE FRANCIA,
E. H. GOMBACH,
NORBERT LYNCHON,
PETER LESTER,
Association of Art Historians,
Birkbeck College,
(University of London),
43 Gordon Square, WC1.

Iceberg of the tip

From Mr Robert Barltrop

Sir, Where does Lord Kingsale (April 1) get the idea that "the lower classes do not tip"? Round my way, in East London, tipping the barber (or ladies' hairdresser) is universal; the dustmen are tipped if they take anything beyond the normal; so are delivery men and anyone who carries out a household service; and so on.

When I did a butcher's round in my teens, in a poor district, tips increased my weekly wage by about a third.

Perhaps Lord Kingsale is misled by the fact that the word "tip" is seldom used. A straightforward gratuity is "a drink" or "beer money"; the necessary but less open payment "to ensure promptness" is "drop" or "drapsy", i.e. money dropped in the palm.

Under these descriptions working-class people do more tipping than the other social groups because, however objectionable it may be, they understand that it is part of the other fellow's living. That Lord Kingsale's word "unthinking" is untrue.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BARLTROP,
34 St Martin's Avenue, E6.
April 1.

MR TRUDEAU SOFTENS HIS LINE

Signs that Mr Trudeau is modifying his plan to use Westminster to rubber stamp his new Canadian constitution behind the back of the eight dissenting provinces are welcome. He is now discussing a deal with the Progressive Conservative opposition in the federal parliament under which he would refrain from triggering the Westminster mechanism for amending the British North America Act until the Supreme Court has ruled. It has before it an appeal by the provinces against the Manitoba Appeal Court's rejection of their arguments to obtain legislation in London without full provincial agreement would be unconstitutional.

It remains to be seen if this deal will come off. Mr Trudeau is not prepared to await the Supreme Court judgment unconditionally, though he must be fairly confident of it. He stands on the assertion that amending the constitution is solely within the federal parliament's jurisdiction. Hence his earlier marked omission to ask the Supreme Court for a declaratory judgment, after he had failed to get (despite interminable consultations) the agreement of more than two provinces to his patriation package.

He has now changed his position to the extent of offering not to send the resolution to London provided the opposition votes for it as it stands, so that it can then

be sent direct to the Supreme Court for its advisory ruling. Earlier, he was merely prepared to undertake not to "press" the British Government to pass the package into law before the Supreme Court had made its ruling upon the appeal of the provinces against the adverse judgment of the Manitoba Appeals Court. (They are now slightly fortified by the favourable judgment of the Newfoundland Court, which the Supreme Court would take into account.)

Yet the opposition is not satisfied. They would prefer that the actual vote on the resolution should be deferred until the Supreme Court has made its judgment. They may fear that the judgment might be in a form which, even if it does not wholly sustain the federal government's case, would be so worded as to leave a loophole for Mr Trudeau, with the resolution passed, to send it to London anyway. As Mr Trudeau cannot concede that he is legally bound by an advisory judgment, abstention from the final act of sending the resolution as passed to London would depend on his political promises only. He would hardly break these, but the opposition is unwilling to let the package pass the House in a form ready to be offered off whenever excuse

That Mr Trudeau is ready to make these concessions suggests that he feels a need to meet widespread criticism of what is

dubbed an underhand way of getting round provincial opposition—and also perhaps a sense that it is now or never. Canadian opinion is worked up and wants patriation. There is now little in the bill of rights to upset the citizen, as opposed to the provincial establishments—indeed it now gives the citizen limited defence against his provincial as well as federal master. Meanwhile the provinces have been working to change their image of objecting to everything without offering agreed alternatives: they claim they now have an agreed formula on constitutional amendment which meets federal and provincial requirements. Should the Supreme Court judgment point to further federal-provincial negotiations there are thus grounds for concessions all round.

But it is a little too soon for British legislators to think the invidious choice between federal and provincial demands has been obviated. If the Supreme Court rules for the federal government, Westminster will be able to pass the Canada Bill thankfully and expeditiously. If the judgment goes the other way, there is no assurance that Westminster will be spared embarrassment permanently. But now that Mr Trudeau has made partial obeisance to the Supreme Court's authority, Westminster would be on strong ground in waiting for its views.

THE TRANSLATION OF DR LEONARD

Set beside the events leading to the disappointment of Archbishop Grant's hopes and the bestowal of the bishopric of Barchester on Doctor and Mrs Proudie, the politics of Dr Graham Leonard's translation from Truro to London are a pale affair. Then no vacancy-in-see committee or crown appointments commission meddled in the matter. If the old bishop expired before the ministry fell the outgoing prime minister would put in his man: if the old bishop lived on the incoming prime minister would put in his man. The position was well understood; and although the chronicler begged to be allowed to draw a curtain over the sorrows of the archdeacon as he sat, sombre and ad ad heart, in the study of his paragon at Plumstead Episcopal, he reported no outcry against the system of episcopal appointments.

The Church of England is more sensitive these days, for it has since been at pains to purge itself of most of the Erastian traits implanted in it by King Henry VIII. Parliament has relaxed its grip on the Church's worship and doctrine, although certain peers, incensed by the "ritual murder" of the Book of Common Prayer, will attempt to reassert that grip in the House of Lords next week. The Privy Council has surrendered its

appellate jurisdiction in causes embracing doctrine, ritual and disciplinary conduct. More recently the Church sought to escape from the position in which the effective advice to the Queen in the nomination of diocesan bishops came from the prime minister after informal soundings by his appointments secretary. Political intervention in choice of the Apostles' successors—though almost as old as Christendom—was thought to be derogatory to the Church as a spiritual society.

In 1974 the General Synod affirmed the principle "that the decisive voice in the appointment of diocesan bishops should be that of the Church". It fell to Mr Callaghan as Prime Minister to respond after lengthy discussions with all concerned. In his proposals the "decisive voice" requested by the Synod shrank to "a greater say in the process of choosing its leaders", while the Prime Minister would retain a "real element of choice". Those proposals were put in their original form which has just given Dr Leonard to London.

On this occasion, by choosing the second not the first name passed to her by the Crown Appointments Commission, the Prime Minister exercised a discretion that had been expressly reserved to her office with the agreement of Synod five years

ago. That is not much of a pad from which to launch a campaign for disestablishment—especially as she plumped for a prelate of distinction, possessed of intellectual, moral and doctrinal force of a kind the Church stands in need of. If the choice had been left to the official ecclesiastical machinery he would not have been given preference.

Far from discrediting the new arrangements for appointing bishops, this episode illustrates one of the virtues of Establishment, which is to correct a tendency of the (universal) church to play into the hands of its own apparatus. Of course the fact that the secular intervention was benign this time does not mean that it must of necessity be so in the future. A Western preference for the most compliant candidate might conceivably become habitual.

That much can be conceded to Canon Paul Oestreicher who made out a case for disestablishment in a letter to *The Times* this week. But his dark vision of the Church of England abject before totalitarianism, as in the remnants of the Austro-Hungarian empire now within the Soviet sphere of influence, hardly comports with one's observation of the present temper of the Church of England or one's expectations of the future course of British politics—even with Mr Benn standing for the deputy leadership.

Abduction of Mr Biggs

From Mr Brian Bagall

Sir, In Mr Marcel Bertins's article today (March 31) in the "ifs and outs of the Biggs affair" a further question is begged in voicing it, et me emphasize that it does not imply my condemnation any aspect of crime for which Biggs was convicted and for which society's sentence remains unfilled. It is his; in seeking Biggs's extradition from a country where he was taken by a criminal act—not dissimilar in nature from the kidnapping and hijacking which he find abhorrent—is the judiciary thus saying that the end justifies the means?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN BAGALL,
Halford Mill,
Surrey.

Sexual equality

From Mrs M. M. Evans

Sir, What condescending praise from Mr Mark Norman (March 28) for the few "wise women" who

managed to succeed in their chosen fields apparently before the onset of motherhood! Thereafter, were these women, allegedly successful "in diverse occupations" content to act as prop and stimulation to their chosen man when he "is in need and the family is threatened" and when he cannot achieve anything without having a convenient cleaner, cook and housekeeper around?

Women who succeed in their professions would be lucky indeed to do so before having children, as for most, the number of working years this gives must be an approximate maximum of 10. Women are in a minority in the professions, despite the fact that some few rise to the top. One of the greatest difficulties women face is the gap in career opportunities which opens as soon as they retire to have a family.

The Equal Opportunities Commission reveals that women teachers with children are three times more likely than men to experience demotion during their search for a headship, and only 4 per cent of secondary

heads in maintained schools are married women. Since a further 14 per cent of headships were achieved by single women the argument must revolve around not whether women are capable but whether opportunities equal to those open to men are denied to them.

If archaic views such as Sir Mark Norman is putting forward can still find favour with the electorate as he suggests, the EOC still has a great deal of work to do in its attempt to promote socio-sexual justice. True equality will only begin to surface when boys and men are educated to respect the right of women to develop their real potential, and actively to support them by sharing family-based tasks and responsibilities, and by girls and women expecting to use their abilities in pursuit of earning a living instead of relying on men to keep them for life.

Yours faithfully,
M. EVANS,
5 Appletree Close,
Godalming,
Surrey.
March 28.

Racing

Crowning moment for Royal Exile

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

There are 40 runners for this year's Grand National which is being sponsored by the Sun newspaper at Liverpool today. So far, the only four-day event to drop out yesterday. The overall quality of the field is such that it would not arouse much interest anywhere else. The fact that it is the Grand National and that it is the last of the famous Aintree races that have to be jumped is what will have such a massive effect at around 3.20 this afternoon.

His great history stretching back to 1827, a history full of every kind of good luck and misfortune, the Grand National remains a long way from being a fair race. It is a race that will continue to attract the public and the media alike. On this occasion the cup of the Grand National will be won by a horse that has a history of un-soundness and his legs could go at any time.

Spartan Missile will be ridden by John Thornes, a trainer who has won the public's imagination by his success in training horses that have been injured. He has won many a prize and it is easy to understand why. He has won many a prize and it is easy to understand why. He has won many a prize and it is easy to understand why.

A triumph for both would be a fairytale come true, yet not more than the night of Bob Champion winning at Aintree. A triumph for both would be a fairytale come true, yet not more than the night of Bob Champion winning at Aintree. A triumph for both would be a fairytale come true, yet not more than the night of Bob Champion winning at Aintree.

Coming from a man who not only won the race twice when he was a jockey, but who has already trained the winner twice today, the second career that comment should not be taken lightly. A recent conversation with Winter left me in no doubt that he would dearly love to come out of retirement to ride Royal Exile today.

Winter's horse is my selection. The man lucky enough to be in the position to be in the hot seat is Ben de Haan, who has got to know him well since his arrival from France 18 months ago.

When he was in training in France Royal Exile jumped successfully around Aintree several times and Winter is adamant that any horse who can do that can negotiate Aintree. Since he has been in training in this country Royal Exile has won five of his 10 races. Royal Exile may lack the physique of Spartan Missile and the flamboyance of Aldanti, but he is a good, economic jumper and that compensates for his lack of looks.

Royal Exile, the top weight, won the Whitbread Gold Cup last year. Like his stable companion, Royal Stuart, he will be more effective now than he was. He has been in the form of a champion and he is a good, economic jumper and that compensates for his lack of looks.

At Aintree, Royal Stuart, Rubstick, Zongaler, Sebastian, V. Chalk, and Conishall are the only members of today's field who have completed the course in the past.

When the time won in 1979 he beat Zongaler by a length and a half. Rubstick looked as slow as a hare the last time I saw him in action, but he is a reliable jumper even though he fell 12 months ago and at least looks good to get around. Furthermore he is another who will rely on the driver conditions.

So too will Zongaler, who last year completed the course in 12 minutes 11 seconds. His connections are banking on a spell of hunting having put new heart into him. Sebastian Drummond and Conishall finished second, third and fourth respectively behind Lucius in 1978. Of the three I prefer Sebastian's chance. He has won a Scottish National in his time.

Bill Smith, who landed a double on Thursday has come in for an unexpected ride on Conishall and at the 11th hour, Conishall was to have been ridden by his owner Broderick Munro-Wilson, but he broke two ribs and dislocated a shoulder in a fall on Thursday.

A gallop on the sands at Southport this morning will determine whether Artistic Prince is fit after bruising and Conishall have run in the last two years. They were placed but each time misfortune has overtaken them.

Seven of the field are trained in Ireland, but yesterday our Irish Correspondent told me that he could not get excited about any of the chances with the possible exception of Kytelope Lady, who might have a squeak of a chance.

Stretched to the limit: National runners leap into the great unknown.



Horse-by-horse guide to big race field

Aldanti: A sound jumper who finished runner-up in the 1979 Scottish Grand National, crown for his jockey, Bob Champion, who has brought his way back from serious injury.

Another Captain: A first runner for the Northern-bred trainer, Andy Scott. Loves extreme distances and soft ground.

Another Prospect: One of three John Edwards runners who have been pulled up at Cheltenham. Says well.

Artistic Prince: Owned by Robert Stewson, an impresario. Is recovering from a roof injury sustained on Wednesday, but is virtually certain to run.

Barney MacLure: Has been trained on both sides of the Irish Sea in recent seasons. Has little to recommend him.

Bryan Boru: John Carden, a solidifier, who rides this horse, has failed badly in his previous attempts to win the race and on paper has little chance of improving his record.

Carrow Boy: A fine jumper, who won at Aintree last year, has the assistance of a top Irish jockey, Gerry Newman.

Casamary: Little form to recommend him, but is owned by Raymond Guest, who won with Escartot in 1975.

Cheers: Peter Scudamore, chasing John Frankome in the National Hunt title race, is the best recommendation for this recent Wolverhampton winner.

Choral Festival: Mark Low, a young amateur, teams up with this family pet who won at Wolverhampton and Worcester this season.

Chumson: Recently bought for 5,000 guineas by a syndicate, he has been ridden by Aidan O'Connell, he has useful staying form.

Coolishall: Bill Smith takes over from his regular jockey and owner, Broderick Munro-Wilson, who here in the past is one of the better bets to get round.

Deopoe: It is a long time since it is 10-year-old showed any form.

to raise the hopes of her brave rider, Mrs Linda Sheedy.

Delmoss: Pulled up in five out of six runs this season. It needs some imagination to visualise him succeeding.

Drumore: Peter Duggan, his amateur rider, is an oil rig worker who keeps on trying, but I said that he has a horse nowhere near good enough.

Drumson: The galloping grand-mother, Peggy St John Nolan saddled him to finish third to Lucius in 1978, but he has since lost his spark.

Kilnwick: Finished a long way behind Aldanti at Ascot, but his trainer, Mick O'Toole, has landed many big race gambles over the years.

Kinnivie: Old stager from the West Country, who would have to benefit from a Foinavon-like tragedy to win.

Kytelope Lady: Only unplaced once in 12 runs, this mare probably represents the best chance for the Irish.

Lord Gulliver: "If a horse has half a chance, run it," is the motto of Jerry Pimman, the trainer, but this is likely to find his inexperience against him.

Martinstown: Trained by a public landlady and part-time anaesthetist, Mrs Mita Easton and ridden by John Thornes, he has won the partnership trophy this season.

Might Be: An average jumper around the smaller courses, but the Liverpool fences could be beyond him.

My Friendly Cousin: Another whose best days are behind him.

No Gypsy: Won four successive races earlier this season, likes fast ground.

Paddy: Has done little this season, but is a confident and is not the safest of jumpers.

Rathlek: Safely negotiated nearly all the fences last year, but cried enough in the closing stages.

Royal Exile: No one knows better than Fred Winter what it takes to win at Aintree. He rode two winners and his trained two more.

Royal Mail: Always runs best in the spring, and won the valuable Whitbread Gold Cup last year.

Royal Stuart: Last of the four runners in the race in 1980 when the heavy ground was against him. Failed a dose test after winning at Windsor.

Rubstick: Won in 1979 and was going well when an uncharacteristic blunder at the Chalk fence sealed his fate last year.

Sebastian V: Best all except Lucius in 1978 after giving one of the finest jumping exhibitions seen at Aintree. The 12-year-old to win was Sergeant Murphy (1921).

Sealator MacLure: Well fancied Irish gelding who won his trial at Punchestown.

So: Favourite for the race two years ago when trained in Ireland, but recent efforts suggest he is in the form of a champion.

Son and Heir: Showed signs of a return to form recently, but, even so, does not look good enough.

Spartan Missile: Our top hunter-chaser. Ran a fine race to finish third in Cheltenham Gold Cup. Loves Aintree and victory would make months of waiting for the winner of the owner-trainer-rider, John Thornes, aged 54.

Temecoon: No form worth talking about this season, but well at Liverpool last year.

The Vintner: Take away the fences and this gelding would definitely be there at the end of the four and a half miles. Jumping is his problem.

Three of Diamonds: Little form, but a fine jumper. The surprise of the meeting at Cheltenham when Baron Blakeney won the Triumph Hurdle.

Three To One: This Scottish horse was travelling really well in the closing stages last year.

Zongaler: Chased home Rubstick in 1978, but found the mud right against him the following year. Has been given careful preparation again by his young trainer, Nick Henderson.

Runners and riders for today's Grand National

301	1-00002 ROYAL MAIL (J. Beggs), S. Mellor, 11-11-77	P. Blacker	324	0-04201 COOLISHALL (S. Munro-Wilson), K. Carden, 12-10-80	W. Smith
302	0-12000 SPARTAN MISSILE (W. Duggan), D. W. Duggan, 9-11-80	G. Newman	325	10-0134 LORD GULLIVER (P. Gifford), Mrs J. Pimman, 6-10-80	C. Brown
303	1-01114 SPARTAN MISSILE (C. M. Thorne), Thorne, 9-11-80	M. Thorne	326	0-00020 NIGHT BE (S. Kinnivie), S. Kinnivie, 10-10-80	A. Webber
304	31217-1 ALDANTI (S. E. Burrows), J. Gifford, 10-10-13	R. Champion	327	0-01040 BRYAN BORU (J. Carden), P. Holsinger, 10-10-80	M. J. Carden
305	0-23148 CHUMSON (J. Beggs), S. Mellor, 10-10-12	M. A. O'Connell	328	0-01434 PACIFY (P. Gifford), S. Kinnivie, 10-10-80	S. Jobar
306	30-300 ZONGALER (S. E. Burrows), J. Gifford, 10-10-13	S. E. Burrows	329	10-0201 SENATOR MACLURE (P. Gifford), J. Walsh, 7-10-80	J. H. Harty
307	0-27000 BARNEY MACLURE (M. Malone), J. Duggan, 9-11-80	M. Lynch	330	0-01041 ANOTHER CAPTAIN (A. Scott), A. Scott, 9-10-80	C. Hawkins
308	10-0239 THE VINTNER (Woodward Gages Ltd), M. Naughton, 10-10-80	C. Grant	331	0-00020 TEMECOO (F. A. Scudamore), P. Gifford, 10-10-80	C. M. Mamm
309	0-02140 MARTINSTOWN (Mrs M. Easton), Mrs Easton, 9-10-80	M. M. Baines	332	0-01430 MY FRIENDLY COUSIN (A. Scott), M. Morgan, 11-10-80	A. Brown
310	0-04310 RUBSTICK (C. M. Thorne), S. E. Burrows, 10-10-13	M. Baines	333	31-0042 THREE TO ONE (J. H. Harty), J. H. Harty, 10-10-80	M. T. Dun
311	0-04310 RUBSTICK (C. M. Thorne), S. E. Burrows, 10-10-13	M. Baines	334	0-00020 SON AND HEIR (J. Scudamore), J. Scudamore, 10-10-80	S. M. Harty
312	0-04310 RUBSTICK (C. M. Thorne), S. E. Burrows, 10-10-13	M. Baines	335	0-00020 DEOPOE (P. Duggan), P. Duggan, 10-10-80	M. P. Duggan
313	0-00020 SON AND HEIR (J. Scudamore), J. Scudamore, 10-10-80	S. M. Harty	336	12-0100 CHORAL FESTIVAL (A. Low), Low, 10-10-80	M. P. Low
314	1-04320 ANOTHER PROSPECT (H. Thorne), J. Edwards, 9-10-80	M. A. Wilson	337	11-0230 NO GYPSY (E. Treacy), J. Treacy, 10-10-80	J. Suthain
315	0-04310 RUBSTICK (C. M. Thorne), S. E. Burrows, 10-10-13	M. Baines	338	0-00020 RATHLEK (D. G. Gifford), G. Gifford, 10-10-80	P. Barton
316	0-04310 RUBSTICK (C. M. Thorne), S. E. Burrows, 10-10-13	M. Baines	339	30-0100 THIRPS OF DIAMONDS (J. H. Harty), J. H. Harty, 10-10-80	P. Leach
317	0-00020 SON AND HEIR (J. Scudamore), J. Scudamore, 10-10-80	S. M. Harty	340	0-00020 KINIVIE (A. Scott), A. Scott, 9-10-80	P. Hobbs
318	0-00020 SON AND HEIR (J. Scudamore), J. Scudamore, 10-10-80	S. M. Harty	341	10-0000 DEOPOE (A. H. Sheedy), Sheedy, 10-10-80	Mrs L. Sheedy
319	0-02120 SEBASTIAN V (R. Jeffries), C. Bell, 10-10-80	R. Lamb			
320	10-00020 SON AND HEIR (J. Scudamore), J. Scudamore, 10-10-80	S. M. Harty			

SETTING: 6-1 Spartan Missile, 8-1 Aldanti, 8-1 Rubstick, 10-1 Royal Mail, 10-1 Zongaler, 11-1 Bryan Boru, 12-1 Artistic Prince, 12-1 Senator MacLure, 12-1 Another Captain, 12-1 Another Prospect, 12-1 Choral Festival, 12-1 Drumore, 12-1 Drumson, 12-1 Lord Gulliver, 12-1 Night Be, 12-1 Paddy, 12-1 Rubstick, 12-1 Sealator MacLure, 12-1 Sebastian V, 12-1 Three To One, 12-1 Vintner, 12-1 Zongaler.

The Winner: 1-00002, 2nd, beaten 61, 10-10-80, 11-10-80, 12-10-80, 13-10-80, 14-10-80, 15-10-80, 16-10-80, 17-10-80, 18-10-80, 19-10-80, 20-10-80, 21-10-80, 22-10-80, 23-10-80, 24-10-80, 25-10-80, 26-10-80, 27-10-80, 28-10-80, 29-10-80, 30-10-80, 31-10-80, 32-10-80, 33-10-80, 34-10-80, 35-10-80, 36-10-80, 37-10-80, 38-10-80, 39-10-80, 40-10-80, 41-10-80, 42-10-80, 43-10-80, 44-10-80, 45-10-80, 46-10-80, 47-10-80, 48-10-80, 49-10-80, 50-10-80, 51-10-80, 52-10-80, 53-10-80, 54-10-80, 55-10-80, 56-10-80, 57-10-80, 58-10-80, 59-10-80, 60-10-80, 61-10-80, 62-10-80, 63-10-80, 64-10-80, 65-10-80, 66-10-80, 67-10-80, 68-10-80, 69-10-80, 70-10-80, 71-10-80, 72-10-80, 73-10-80, 74-10-80, 75-10-80, 76-10-80, 77-10-80, 78-10-80, 79-10-80, 80-10-80, 81-10-80, 82-10-80, 83-10-80, 84-10-80, 85-10-80, 86-10-80, 87-10-80, 88-10-80, 89-10-80, 90-10-80, 91-10-80, 92-10-80, 93-10-80, 94-10-80, 95-10-80, 96-10-80, 97-10-80, 98-10-80, 99-10-80, 100-10-80.

Rest of Liverpool programme

Television (BBC 1): 2.0, 2.35 and 3.20 races	
0 SUNRATINGS CHASE (Limited handicap; £9,325: 2m)	
1 420112 Anasolus Dargher (D. J. Dargher), W. Dargher, 10-10-80	
2 0-00020 Wind of Time (C. G. Gifford), G. Gifford, 10-10-80	
3 112120 Rutherford (D. J. Dargher), W. Dargher, 10-10-80	
4 112120 Rutherford (D. J. Dargher), W. Dargher, 10-10-80	
5 0-00020 Wind of Time (C. G. Gifford), G. Gifford, 10-10-80	
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4.35 LUCKY JIM HURDLE (Handicap; amateurs; £4,591: 2m)	
604 0-01391 Rere Time (D. J. Dargher), W. Dargher, 10-10-80	
605 1304442 Hudson's Bay (Mrs M. Penson), N. Henderson, 8-10-80	
606 0-00020 Wind of Time (C. G. Gifford), G. Gifford, 10-10-80	
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Football

Cooper adds last minute footnote

By Nicholas Harling

The differences that half a season and an unfamiliar setting make to a team may be more clearly illustrated today than at the Hawthorns where Ipswich, resuming their championship challenge against West Bromwich Albion.

Five months ago in the first encounter, when Osman, the Ipswich central defender, played in goal for most of the second half, Ipswich felt frustrated that they could only draw 0-0. Today, they would welcome such a result, more especially so if Steve, their recognised deputy goalkeeper, must this time take the place of Cooper, who is troubled again, now by a painful foot. The doubt over Cooper is the last of the Ipswich manager, Bobby Robson's concerns. He is already resigned to being without Thissen, who aggravated a hamstring injury on Thursday, and Beattie in addition to Burt.

Every day about Burley being out for the rest of the season and Beattie's knee trouble has blown up again just when we need him most. Mr. Robson said. He hopes to have Thissen back for Wednesday's visit of Colchester in the UEFA Cup, the first of two semi-finals Ipswich face next week. Mills will move up from full back against Albion to fill the vacancy left by the Dutchman in midfield, enabling Steegles to partner McCall at full back.

Since the last recently capitalised on a curious spell of six successive home games, Ipswich have started to look surprisingly in control. They have been well for them that Wark and Mariner are at least fit to play in a team attempting to avoid its third defeat in as many away games.

Much as Albion dread the prospect of Ipswich's main rivals and their own neighbours Aston Villa, capturing the title, a win today would enhance their own hopes of getting into Europe next season by the EFL Cup. If, as expected, their slim hopes of finishing first are not fulfilled, Albion have the comfort of knowing that if they can beat Ipswich, they will have a similar disaster.

vice on Wednesday. They will have Owen back and Bennett, too, if their young central defender recovers from the knee injury that he received against Everton.

Villa's team for the difficult visit to Leicester, actually picks itself now that White, the team's compromising striker, has completed a two-match suspension.

Although Geddis, who deputised for the injured striker, scored a brace last week, the other Villa striker, who has profited from a better understanding with White, the appearance of White gives Scott, the Leicester defender, a tough return after missing 11 games. He takes over from O'Neill.

Mention of Wolves focuses attention on their EA Cup semi-final round with Tottenham Hotspur next Saturday. Players of both sides are given late opportunities today of staking claims for places at Hillsborough. Villa, who have been absent for three months, is the Spurs substitute for the home match with Everton.

Wolves, who visit Sunderland, may have a Tassaddie, the Scottish youth international striker, making his first appearance.

Sunderland must make at least two changes before last week's defeat at Ipswich cost them Hinnigan, who was sent off and is thus suspended, and Buckley, who fractured his jaw, Whitworth and Chisholm, definitely come in and so too will Rowell, Sunderland's leading scorer, if Brown is dropped.

Unlike Buckley, the Nottingham Forest defender, Needham, has recently been back but that has not prevented his manager, Brian Clough, from including him in the squad for the game at Southampton. Reading, the third division side, have shown play where a cloud has been deciding that their centre half Hicks would be better occupied with the afternoon having his nose reset than playing at Exeter.

Three issues could be settled today. Crystal Palace will go down to the bottom of the league if they lose to the third division side, West Ham may take their place if they beat Bristol Rovers and Lincoln can accompany Southampton to the third division if they overcome the bottom club here.

Johnston: Liverpool's £650,000 recruit.

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Johnston: Liverpool's £650,000 recruit.

Liverpool's future beginning to emerge

By Tom German

A sprinkling of new ideas does not impair, and does not vary, the basic formula Liverpool apply. Young Rush, who won a League Cup Final medal in his first season, was followed by another teenager, Whelan, a lively midfielder, who has been in the club's array of walking wounded watching from the main stand since he was injured in the challenge for places which lies ahead.

Whelan scored a splendid goal, which gave Liverpool a 2-0 lead, and had to be carefully watched. With Craig Johnston, signed from Middlesbrough earlier in the day for £200,000, available for further strengthening the midfield, the shape of the future Liverpool is, perhaps, beginning to emerge.

The club have been suffering hurdles to confront Liverpool on Grand National eve. Stoke's ready running, however, achieved

Last night's results

First division

Liverpool 1-2 Stoke C 10-0
Sheff Wed 1-1 Sheff Utd 1-1

Leading positions
Ipswich 23 10 10 42 30 31 52
W.B.A. 22 11 10 33 25 35 35
Liverpool 21 11 8 30 26 36 41
Sheff Wed 20 10 11 28 20 43

Third division
Gillingham 1-1 Walsall 1-1
Preston 1-1

Fourth division
Crewe A 1-2 Hartlepool 0-0
Sheff Wed 1-1 Sheff Utd 1-1

Leading positions
Southend 23 10 10 42 30 31 52
Lincoln 22 11 10 33 25 35 35
W.B.A. 21 11 8 30 26 36 41
Sheff Wed 20 10 11 28 20 43

Non-League
Luton 23 10 10 42 30 31 52
W.B.A. 22 11 10 33 25 35 35
Liverpool 21 11 8 30 26 36 41
Sheff Wed 20 10 11 28 20 43

Non-League
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Cricket

England go to work

on building site

From John Woodcock

Cricket Correspondent

Kingston, April 3

There is every confidence here that the last two matches of the England tour—against Jamaica tomorrow and the fifth Test a week today—will be free from serious interference.

Both Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister, and Mr Michael Manley, leader of the main opposition party, have come out in support of England's visit. It is to be any trouble that might come from Jamaica, although they are very small and would aim to make their protest peaceful.

Since the meeting of the ministers in Barbados decided that the tour should go ahead, the cricket authorities in Guyana at the end of February, there has been no sign of trouble. The Test matches in Barbados and Antigua and the game in Montserrat went off without a hitch. The Jamaica affair had never happened.

Jamaica, however, is politically more volatile. It will be surprising if there is not a fracas or two, but it is not expected to go beyond the Mr Manley's view, expressed in a recent interview with a Sunday newspaper, that the Gleanings Agreement does not allow for such a thing as a John Player Cup on the outside of

the final. But Leicester supporters are staying away because they can't afford a 4,000-leicester support making the 100-mile journey there will be only 1,500. They have returned 2,200 stand seats and 600 ground tickets. Seagun did not do themselves justice when they reached the last round in 1974, and they realise that they may have to accept all their chances, including kicks at goal, if they are to put the record

The Leicester and England full-back, "Dusty" Hare, now needs only, by his usual standards, a modest 40 points to exceed Sam Dobie's total of 3,551 in a first-class career.

On the evidence of their win at Nottingham last weekend it will take a very good side to stop Gosforth winning the trophy for a third time. They are well armed at every point, fore and aft.

John Butler now returns to their side at No 8 but Bob Anderson, the flanker who was on a skiing holiday last week, cannot recover his place from Simon Smith, nor can Steve Gurnard from Neil McDowell on the left wing. There was a slight doubt yesterday about the fitness of the blind side man, Ian Richardson.

Gary Cox, and the prop, Kevin Astley, in hale health to the side but the midlands club have had some injury problems elsewhere. The front row of Curtis, Dixon and Henderson looks a distinctly

himself leap-frogged by Melville when the senior touring side was announced. There will be sympathy for Youngs, as well as approval of his choice for next Saturday's game.

There are three changes in the under-23 XV as compared with that which played at Bath. The versatile Neil McDowell (Gosforth, Cumbria and the North) replaces Rick Bodenham in the centre; Simon Anderson (in the Sturges) replaces three days ago comes in for Steve Ashmead at tight head prop; and Mike Teague (Gloucester) replaces Simon Smith at hooker.

The front row of Curtis, Dixon and Henderson looks a distinctly

physical presence at forward to displace Llanelli's forward line. West Park Grammar School also caught the eye and have one of the tournament's classiest players. They are strong and well left-winged. Metcalfe, who has played at Worcester and at the wing, are not yet 15 and West Park cannot forget that they were the only side to beat them convincingly in winter.

The only upset in these 15-minute each way, 15-a-side contests, might happen if a school can deprive the favourites of possession and apply pressure to induce error. The likeliest candidates for this purpose are the two schools, Llanelli and Llanelli, who have played for Llanelli this season, is not available for Llanelli and injury to Cowley's speedy full back, Muldoon, has posed some problems.

Outstanding in the Llanelli pack is their tall lineout jumper, Mayberry-Woolfe, who has represented Wales at a group level. He is a stand-off half. A Williams, who is also a member of the Welsh squad, Cowley may lack the

June Croft (Wigan Wasps) and Susan Brown (Tunbridge Wells) are the only two players in the 300 metres free-style and 200 metres individual medley respectively. But Miss Croft leads the women's table by a wide margin, having won the silver in this latter event, which was short of much of its interest (not to mention glamour) by the much-publicised absence of Sharon Davies.

Although the winning time (2 min 20.17 sec) was some four seconds slower than the British record of Miss Davies, there was distinct evidence that Miss Brown, who is a very fast swimmer, is a specialist, could well develop into a significant international performer on the short medley.

The only champion to retain a title was Jane Adams (Slough Dolphins) in the 200 metres backstroke, a surprising result in view of the fact that Miss Adams has been well below her past form in recent months, apparently due to a mysterious virus complaint.

RESULTS: Men's 100 metres breaststroke: 1. J. Adams (Slough) 1 min 57.2 sec; 2. M. Taylor (Cardiff) 1 min 57.7 sec; 3. J. Davies (Manchester) 1 min 59.0 sec.

Women's 200 metres backstroke: 1. J. Adams (Slough) 2 min 20.17 sec; 2. M. Taylor (Cardiff) 2 min 20.17 sec; 3. J. Davies (Manchester) 2 min 20.17 sec.

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Rugby Union

Scottish must not lack bite if they are to hold the Tigers

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

Kingston, April 3

Scottish captain, believes that his side will defeat the holders, Leicester, in the semi-final round of the Athletic Ground this afternoon.

Moseley have made the long journey to Gosforth for the other side, sustained by the memory of a victory there, 6-3, at the same time of the competition two years ago and confident that they can now repeat it. Yet the odds must surely favour Leicester and Gosforth.

Leicester are at full strength, reinforced by the return of Peter Wheeler, Clive Woodward and Les Cusworth from the Hongkong sevens and hoping that these luminaries will not be home down by jet lag. It is most unlikely that the Tigers will win the line-outs—they rarely do—but they have many other options.

Their disposal and they have much to gain in their century season. If they win today it will be their fourteenth consecutive victory in the Cup. That would beat the record set up by Coventry back in the early 70s. And it would take them through to the climax at Twickenham for a fourth year. Their last Cup defeat was at the hands of Gloucester in the last round of 1978.

The Scottish are catering for a crowd of 8,000 at Gosforth for a John Player Cup on the outside of

the final. But Leicester supporters are staying away because they can't afford a 4,000-leicester support making the 100-mile journey there will be only 1,500. They have returned 2,200 stand seats and 600 ground tickets. Seagun did not do themselves justice when they reached the last round in 1974, and they realise that they may have to accept all their chances, including kicks at goal, if they are to put the record

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\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Full;7 paid. g £40 paid. h £50 paid. i £15 paid.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 20, 21 & 22

Stock markets

FT Ind 539.6 down 2.3
FT Giles 70.06 down 0.04

Sterling

\$2.2053 down 2.35 cents
Index 99.5 down 0.6

Dollar

Index 101.1 up 0.9
DM 2.1220 up 1.20 pts

Gold

\$523.30 up \$3

Money

3 mth sterling 121.121
3 mth Euro \$ 141.141
6 mth Euro \$ 141.141

IN BRIEF

Chrysler has made its last 'gas guzzler'

Chrysler, the American car maker whose deep financial problems were rooted in its inability to follow the public's switch away from large cars, has closed its last "gas guzzler" production line.

The company yesterday closed its 53-year-old Lynch Road assembly plant in Detroit, pulling out of the full-sized car market entirely. Chrysler will consolidate its production into four United States car plants making front-wheel-drive small cars and one Canadian plant making conventional intermediaries.

The Chrysler New Yorker, Dodge St Regis and Plymouth Gran Fury, all big cars made at Lynch Road, never sold very well, despite a \$57m (£25m) overhaul of the plant for the new models in 1978.

Chrysler says the plant and its 12-acre site is for sale. Rumours persist that it might be reopened, possibly for a joint venture with a Japanese car maker.

Housebuilding falters
Builders started work on 11,900 homes in February, compared to 13,600 in February 1980, according to the Department of the Environment. But starts for the three months up to and including February were 18 per cent up on the previous quarter, reflecting the recent increase in house-building activity.

Bonn to cut spending
The West German Government is likely to decide next week on measures to cut Federal expenditure and stimulate investment, according to an official spokesman, but it will not fuel demand with a large spending package.

China oil target
China produced 24.9 million tons of crude oil in the first three months of the year, on course for its 1981 oil production target of 100 million tons. China's offshore oil wells are not expected to produce large quantities until after 1985.

Fund runs dry
The International Monetary Fund has exhausted the \$3,000m (£1,300m) in its trust fund set up in 1976 to help Third World countries. Future repayments will be used to finance aid.

obs cash plan
France and West Germany plan to float a joint loan on the European capital market to finance a programme to fight unemployment in the two countries.

40m loan to Turkey
The World Bank has announced a \$40 (£18m) loan to Turkey to finance expansion of exports of fruit and vegetables.

ideo tape expansion
In a two-year expansion plan, the 3M company in Britain is investing £3m to quadruple the output of video tape cassettes. Gorseinon, near Swansea.

Wall Street lower
The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 1,007.11 down 30 on Wall Street yesterday. The S&P 500 index was 219.90 while the £=SDR rate was 0.551866.

Shipyard job cuts provoke Tyneside walkout and a challenge to chairman

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

British Shipbuilders faced mounting opposition last night over its plan for more than 600 compulsory redundancies. About 200 workers at Tyneside Shipbuilders walked out in protest and Mr William Niven, national shipbuilding officer of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, called for Mr Robert Atkinson, the shipbuilders' chairman, to challenge the Government's monetarist policies or resign.

The walkout in the middle docks and engineering section of the Tyneside yard, mainly by members of the Boiler-makers' Society, came as 100 workers received formal redundancy notices. Shop stewards from yards throughout the country are to meet in Newcastle on Monday to determine their formal response to the job cuts. The dispute follows a restructuring programme under which about 2,000 employees have left the industry voluntarily.

Despite the exercise however, a surplus of 628 yards remained throughout the yards and the corporation has made it clear that compulsory redundancy is necessary.

At notices began to reach workers yesterday shop stewards at Govan and Yarrow on the Clyde held meetings at which they were given support for whatever stance the delegates take at Monday's meeting.

Although heated opposition is bound to be expressed at the meeting particularly from yards most affected, which include Cammell Laird on Merseyside, it remains uncertain whether the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) is ready to give full backing to industrial action.

Thursday's meeting of the CSEU executive left it up to Monday's meeting to determine the first response. Although which they were given support for whatever stance the delegates take at Monday's meeting.

Mr Niven said: "that TASS would be calling for action in opposition to any compulsory sackings and said there had been 20 per cent reduction in staff by voluntary means since 1977."

Mr Niven, whose union represents 7,000 white collar employees out of the total workforce of 70,000, said that the exchange rate fluctuations the United Kingdom shipyards were at a 32 per cent disadvantage compared with the Japanese. "This is not an act of God but deliberate Government policy," he said.

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the CSEU is formally opposed to compulsory redundancies, union leaders are conscious of the financial straits on BS, which is expected to lose £100m this year.

Although officially called by the CSEU, Monday's meeting is an advisory one and any decision on official resistance would have to be referred to the individual executives of the unions and to the CSEU executive itself.

A Niven of the technical administrative and supervisory section (TASS) told a meeting of Clyde shop stewards in Glasgow last night that Mr Atkinson had behaved like a little dictator. Ignoring the advice of the CSEU, he is insisting on compulsory redundancies.

Mr Niven said: "that TASS would be calling for action in opposition to any compulsory sackings and said there had been 20 per cent reduction in staff by voluntary means since 1977."

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Bank union threatens to spread disruption

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The Bank of England and Finance Union is threatening to disrupt bank business in pursuit of its pay claim despite acceptance of the employees' "find" 10 per cent offer by the final Clearing Bank Union.

An emergency executive meeting of Eifu last night authorised a second round of industrial action involving about 8,000 staff in high street banks in several large provincial centres and the West End of London.

The decision on when to start the action will not be taken until after a meeting with the employers next Wednesday, Mr Leif Mills, the Eifu secretary, said that he had no doubt that a further meeting of the executive on Sunday would launch the action if there was no improvement in the offer.

He also said that "the balance will be up" to the employers' desire to impose the 10 per cent offer on all staff as a result of acceptance by the Clearing Bank Union. That action could lead to the breakdown of the banking system, he said.

The union executive agreed yesterday to ballot about 1,200 staff who work for a company in South Wales which services the Access credit card operation. Their pay traditionally is linked to the clearing banks, but so far the union has not received a response from the management to its 20 per cent claim.

It is thought that if the employers improved their offer to 12 per cent by next Wednesday, the union would be sufficient to call off the action. But last night the employers appeared firm in their resolve not to offer more to Eifu than has been accepted by the 90,000 members of the Clearing Bank Union.

The staff to take part in the latest disruption, which comes after last week's two one-day strikes in the Barclays and Lloyds computer centres, have been asked to make action, although it is understood that the majority was quite narrow.

The action will take the form of 24-hour strikes coupled with a work to rule and overtime ban. Areas to be hit outside London include Yorkshire, the Midlands, and the West Country.

The union's executive also agreed in principle to hold a ballot of all 75,000 members at the time the clearing banks vote on much wider action if the second phase fails to produce an improved offer.

Mr Mills was scathing of the Clearing Bank Union's acceptance of the 10 per cent offer. The offer is likely to improve members in holidays.

"If next Wednesday's meeting does not bring any improvement in the offer, then we are in for a very severe escalation of industrial action. I hope that wiser and more responsible counsels will prevail in the banks, and I hope that the more hawkish members who lurk in the labyrinth of the City of London, will be defeated," he said.

As a result of their decision individuals who benefited from the transfer of assets abroad could be liable to tax on such benefits if they had not been parties to the transfer. Under the new proposals such individuals will be liable to tax, if they are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, on the amount or value of any benefit which they receive after March 10, 1981 (Budget day).

A second clause eliminates the anomaly in 1970 Act under which the Inland Revenue claimed that it was possible to tax the same income several times over; and it alleviates other aspects of the rules which have been criticized for their harshness.

A further clause in the Bill provides for the taxation of sick pay provided at the employer's expense, but eliminates the tax charge previously levied on the premiums paid by employers for sick pay insurance for their higher paid employees.

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Fringe benefits, page 20

Fringe benefits, page 20

Fringe benefits, page 20

Sharp increase in wholesale prices shows US inflation still strong

From Frank Vogl
United States Economics Correspondent
Washington, April 3

Inflation in the United States is proving much more forceful than government economists expected. Figures out today showed a sharp rise in wholesale prices, which rose more rapidly in March than in any single month since last July.

Wholesale prices increased last month on a seasonally-adjusted basis by 1.3 per cent, after a 0.8 per cent rise in February. Wholesale prices in the United States have increased by 10.5 per cent over the last 12 months, with the index now standing at 253.3 (1967=100).

The inflation figures are likely to cause concern in financial markets. Some analysts today suggested that the Federal Reserve Board could tighten its policies. Such fears were seen as being one of the reasons behind moves by numerous large banks to raise the interest rate they charge stockbrokers from 15 per cent to either 16 per cent or 16 1/2 per cent.

Government economists had expected a substantial decline in economic activity in the first few months of this year and more stable prices. However, the economy appears to be performing more vigorously, partly because of special discount schemes to increase car sales.

At the same time, the decision by President Reagan to decontrol oil prices immediately is having a big effect on the inflation statistics. The Bureau of Labour Statistics pointed out that wholesale energy prices rose by 6.1 per cent last month. Retail prices were up by 7.5 per cent and home heating oil prices ahead by 9 per cent.

Figures for semi-finished goods and crude goods pointed to a more moderate trend for inflation in coming months. Wholesale food prices actually declined by 2.5 per cent last month.

Most encouraging of all was a 1.3 per cent fall in the wholesale price of crude goods after a 2.9 per cent rise in February. The sharp downward movement of these prices will have an influence in due course on the trends of all wholesale and eventually consumer prices.

However, the employment statistics have shown little change in recent months. Last month's 7.3 per cent jobless rate compares with a rate of 7.6 per cent in March 1980. The trend is viewed as better than expected by government officials, but the overall figures mask to some extent the high levels of unemployment among certain groups.

Today's figures showed that unemployment among teenagers in America is now 19.1 per cent, and the jobless rate among blacks is 12.7 per cent against 6.5 per cent for whites.

Representatives, where political commentators expect it will also be approved, though probably by a closer margin.

Observers considered that the present wave of sympathy for the President after the assassination attempt played a large part in the Senators' unusually quick decision and the large majority. The vote came less than a month after Mr Reagan sent his final recommendations to the legislature.

Republicans, the majority party in the upper house, hailed the vote as "a historic turning point" in the battle for better control over Federal spending. The spending cuts were fought in a bitter rearguard action by a handful of liberal Democrats, including Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, who accused the Government of a "cruel abandonment" of the poor.

More than 20 amendments were proposed to try to restore funds for social programmes such as food stamps, school benefits, and unemployment. All the amendments were voted down—Agence France Presse.

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Sterling dips by 2 1/2 cents

By Our Economics Staff

Fears of possible Soviet intervention in Poland and higher dollar interest rates sent the dollar soaring on foreign exchange markets yesterday, though it closed below its best levels.

The pound slumped heavily against the dollar and also lost ground against continental currencies. Dealers said speculation of an early reduction in minimum lending rate may have unsettled the market.

At 2.2053, down nearly 2 1/2 cents from Thursday, the effective exchange rate, as calculated by the Bank of England, fell 0.6 to 99.5 (average 1975=100).

After a quiet morning in European trading, news of the Federal funds rate and worse-than-expected United States wholesale price figures for March sparked off fresh dollar gains, to more than DM2.13 at one stage.

Profit-taking and possible intervention by the German Federal Bank late in the day brought the dollar below its best levels to close in European trading at DM2.1230, up 1.20 pence from Thursday.

In London short-term interest rates continued to ease, and the Treasury bill rate dropped for the third week running from 11.5 to 11.4 per cent.

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Nissan in talks with components suppliers

By Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Senior executives from Nissan have started detailed negotiations with 80 British and European component manufacturers which will decide whether or not the Japanese motor group goes ahead with its plan to establish a £200m car plant in Britain.

Preliminary talks have been taking place in some secrecy. A United Kingdom component company executive said last night: "We are now getting down to the nitty gritty of prices, stability of delivery and quality."

Nissan gave the impression that the selection of a site for the plant and the starting costs were secondary to the availability of the right quality of components at competitive prices.

It seems pretty clear that with a target of 80 per cent local content for their cars to be built in the United Kingdom, the whole project will stand or fall on the response they get from component firms. In that respect most people seem to have forgotten that when Nissan refers to local content it is talking about supplies from the whole of the EEC, British

one tax year. This will be for newly issued shares in companies which have been formed within the past three years.

However, the relief will be available only to an outside investor (or to a director providing for his services), who must hold more than 20 per cent of the shares in the company or have effective control of it.

Moreover, the company must be involved in a trade which is new to the country, designed to prevent existing owners from transferring their businesses to new companies with a view to attracting such investment, but also "qualifying" trades.

The "qualifying" trades exclude dealing businesses (including wholesale and retail distribution), leasing, financial activities and activities connected with land (such as farming and forestry). They also exclude "hobby" business which are not carried on with a view to making profits.

The investment must be maintained in the business for at least five years, and the Treasury admitted yesterday that there might be problems for the investor who wanted to realize his investment, although a clause in the new Companies Bill enabling companies to buy their shares may ease the difficulty.

Because the scheme breaks new ground—there is no known parallel anywhere else in the world—it has been introduced tentatively for three years only, starting on April 6. At a "rough guess", the Inland Revenue estimates that it may cost £50m in a full tax year.

Two clauses of the Finance Bill deal with the problem revealed when the House of Lords dismissed the Inland Revenue's contentions in the Vestey affair. The clause under which the Revenue charged the Vestey family, section 478 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, was heavily criticized by the Lords.

As a result of their decision individuals who benefited from the transfer of assets abroad could be liable to tax on such benefits if they had not been parties to the transfer. Under the new proposals such individuals will be liable to tax, if they are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, on the amount or value of any benefit which they receive after March 10, 1981 (Budget day).

A second clause eliminates the anomaly in 1970 Act under which the Inland Revenue claimed that it was possible to tax the same income several times over; and it alleviates other aspects of the rules which have been criticized for their harshness.

Decision deferred on THF bid for Savoy

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

A decision on whether Trusthouse Forte should be allowed to proceed with its scheme of arrangement bid for the Savoy Hotel has been deferred until next week.

Yesterday both sides appeared before the High Court Registrar and it was agreed, without detailed submissions being made, that the matter should be adjourned so that a ruling could be given by a judge.

Counsel for Trusthouse and the Savoy apparently were anxious that the matter should be decided before the Easter law vacation, and it is probable that a judge will consider the matter next week, possibly on Thursday.

It is the first time that a contested bid has been pursued under the scheme of arrangement provisions of section 206 of the Companies Act.

The effect, should Trusthouse win a favourable decision in the courts, is that it would call meetings of both the "A" and "B" shareholders in the Savoy.

Trusthouse knows that if it were able to win the approval of shareholders with 75 per cent of the "A" shares in the hotels group for its £58m bid, it would have 51 per cent of the total votes and thus control of the Savoy group.

However, it is recognized in the stock market, where the value of the Savoy's "A" capital stands some £5m above that at present offered by Trusthouse, that if Trusthouse is given the go-ahead by the courts, owners would be open to follow the same route with a counterbid.

Sir Maxwell Joseph's Grand Metropolitan group is known to be watching the situation carefully, and has indicated that the price being offered by Trusthouse is less than it would offer should it decide to counterbid.

An alternative is that the Savoy itself, together with Barings, its advisers, may be talking to other interested parties, particularly because of his art and music interests, and he usually stays at the Savoy Hotel. Business acquaintances say he has changed little since his self-made beginnings selling Rothmans cigarettes in South Africa.

He bought local manufacturing rights from Rothmans to start up what is now claimed to be the fourth largest tobacco manufacturing group worldwide.

When in the early 1970s Rothmans International was created by putting together separate interests in Britain, West Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands—in all of which the Rupert empire had a share—Dr Rupert gained a reputation as a tough negotiator never afraid of going to the brink. It remains to be seen how far he will need to go with Reynolds.

Reynolds deal awaits the Rupert touch

£2,340m offshore gas pipe 'ready by 1985'

By Bill Johnstone
Industrial Staff

Britain's 705-kilometre North Sea gas pipeline, now estimated to cost £2,340m, is expected to be in operation by early 1985.

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

It is not only the cost of insurance to replace income while you are sick, or to pay out at your death, which matters. What is also important is whether the insurance company will settle a claim in a straightforward way. As with other forms of insurance, cheaper insurers are often obliged to take a tougher line when a claim is made.

If, for instance, you are arranging permanent health insurance to provide an alternative income in case you are off work for long spells owing to accident or sickness, the insurance may appear to fuss about your health and even ask questions about your past. In the long run, it is likely to be in your best interest. After all, it is much better for the people it will accept, and then to err on the side of generosity. The alternative is for an office to be none too choosy at the outset, but to have plenty of small print to which it can turn for help when a claim is made.

Quite often with permanent health insurance there are borderline cases and you want to be as sure as possible at the outset that you will be given the benefit of the doubt. Permanent health insurers have sometimes found that an employee or controlling director of a small business has been paid by his business while he has been unable to

More Personal Investment and Finance on page 22.

Banking

Personal customers back in favour

The proposed merger between Standard Chartered and Royal Bank of Scotland, and its sister bank Williams & Glyn, is the biggest reorganisation in British banking for more than a decade. After the merger the group will be on par with Midland and Lloyds in terms of size, but still well short of Barclays and National Westminster.

The two banks are ideally suited for marriage. While Standard Chartered has an international bias but wants to build up its United Kingdom base, so Royal Bank of Scotland, predominantly a domestic bank, not only fits the bill but is also keen to expand its overseas side.

The banks say that it is too early yet to discuss details of the expected push into retail banking, a field that over recent months has become very competitive. The personal saver—for years the poor relation of the corporate sector in the banking world—is now being wooed by the banks, building societies and the Government alike.

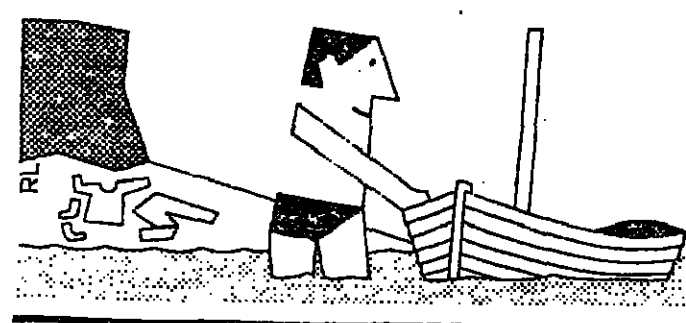
While overseas banks have long been envious of the profitability of United Kingdom retail banking compared with their own, British banks have tended to ignore this area with the result that their market share of personal sector deposits fell from 35 per cent in 1965 to just over 30 per cent at the end of 1979.

Building societies on the other hand have seen their share of this particular market almost double over the same period from 25 per cent to 43 per cent.

But that is not the only area where banks were missing out. About half the adult population of Britain, some 11 million people, do not have bank accounts.

Insurance

When companies take a tough line on claims



work. Obviously, it is not sensible from many points of view (except for the individual concerned) for somebody to be able to make a "profit" from long-term illness. To overcome this, some permanent health insurers say that continuing income must be taken into account in calculating the maximum benefit.

This is not an attempt to cut back the amount payable when a claim is made, but simply to make the position clear so that the right arrangements can be made at the outset and a premium is not paid for a level of benefit which it might not be possible to have.

There are not quite the same problems with life assurance: after all, somebody is either alive or dead. Since suicide is no longer a criminal offence, a policy provides cover unless there is a specific exclusion.

For instance, a policy may sometimes be voided if a claim results from a suicide within a year of the policy being arranged, although even then a genuine third party with an interest in the policy (of which the life office was aware) would probably be paid.

John Drummond

If somebody simply disappears, it is not a foregone conclusion that he is dead. He may have wanted to escape the law or his own family.

He may also have made his disappearance look like an accident. For instance, bundles of clothes have sometimes been left on the beach, to give the impression that their owners have been swept out to sea. Insurers appreciate that that does not necessarily mean that a person is dead.

After nothing has been heard of a person for a long time, evidence may be given by those most likely to have heard from him and the court may presume that he has died. Or, given less than complete evidence of death, a life office may be prepared to pay out, if there does not appear to be anything suspicious about the case.

Some life claims are turned down, but generally only where an office finds that a policy was obtained by false pretences, such as the deliberate non-disclosure of a material fact relating to somebody's health or medical history when the policy was arranged.

Fortunately, that is very rare, especially now that cover is provided on some form for those suffering from a wide range of ailments. The reasons for arranging life insurance are in any case generally too important to risk the rejection of a claim.

John Drummond

A Gilt Unit Trust is only as good as the people who manage it.

The launch of another Gilt Unit Trust would not be so significant in itself if it wasn't for the fact that Legal & General have moved into the market.

Generally, it is a market that is very active, as the government's continuing need to borrow, coupled with its commitment to curb the growth in the money supply (resulting in high interest rates) have created a climate favourable to investors. Also since it is widely accepted that long-term interest rates are likely to fall, gains could be made on the capital value of long-dated Gilts.

However, a passive investment in a reasonable spread of Gilts is no guarantee that long-term profits will result.

For example, the Financial Times Actuaries over 15-Year Gilt Index shows a loss of capital over the last three years of some 10%. Consequently many private investors are turning to Gilt Unit Trusts, which offer day-to-day management of the portfolio.

Tax Concessions.

Gilt Unit Trusts have become particularly attractive as a result of the 1980 Finance Act which allows such Trusts to realise capital gains without attracting any Capital Gains Tax. Likewise an individual may realise capital gains of up to £3,000 a year from all sources without liability to Capital Gains Tax. However,

making the most from an investment in Gilts requires skilful management of the portfolio, for example, increasing liquidity when interest rate increases are likely, and going back into the market when rates may fall.

Legal & General's Fund

Managers (who are responsible for managing over £4 billion of assets and £40 million of new money a month) have the expertise and contacts to research and analyse markets in minute detail. In order to maximise overall growth, they will not aim for a set level of income, although the initial yield has been estimated at 9-6% gross a year.

Successful Team.

The Fund Managers are the same team as those responsible for the success of Legal & General's Fixed Interest Fund, a fund linked to life assurance policies and launched in October 1977. Since then, this fund has shown an increase of around 80%; a performance that is even more impressive when viewed against the background of a generally depressed market.

Launch Offer.

In addition to such a persuasive management track record, Legal & General are offering a 1% discount on the launch offer price of 100p per unit. To take advantage of this, you should complete the application

below and send it with a cheque for a minimum of £1,000 to reach us by 24th April 1981.

Other points of information are summarised in the panel below.

1. The minimum initial investment in the Legal & General Gilt Unit Trust is £1,000. Subsequent investments must be for amounts of at least £200.
2. The initial price of units is 100p. The price applies to applications eligible for the 1% discount described above is 99p.
3. After 24th April 1981 or earlier at the Manager's discretion the Fund will be valued and units may be purchased at prices calculated daily and published in the Financial Times and other leading quality newspapers.
4. The preliminary charge is normally 5% of the offer price and is built into the price. For the purposes of this offer a reduced preliminary charge of 3.5% will be made, to give the reduced unit price of 96.5p. There is a monthly management charge of 1.1666% of the value of the Unit, plus A.C.T. On giving three months' notice, the Managers would be able to increase this charge to 1.2500%. The Managers are entitled to a rounding adjustment to bid and offer prices of up to 1p or 1.25p, whichever is the less. This does not apply to this launch offer of units.
5. Income net of basic rate tax is distributed twice yearly on 30th June and 30th December. Investors may choose to have income automatically reinvested in further units. The first distribution will be made on 30th December 1981.
6. The price of the units, and the income from them, may go down as well as up.
7. Contract notes will be issued and certificates will be forwarded within 6 weeks of the close of the offer. To sell units, endorse your unit certificate and send it to the Managers. Payment will normally be made within 7 working days.
8. The Managers are Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Ltd and are members of the Unit Trust Association. The Trustee is Williams & Glyn's Bank Ltd. The Fund is a U.K. Authorised Unit Trust and a "widened-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961.

To: Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Ltd., Dealing Dept., 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 1AA.

Application For Our New Gilt Unit Trust.

Launch offer of units in Legal & General Gilt Unit Trust until 24th April 1981.

Surname/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title _____

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

First names (in full) _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

(Payments and correspondence will be sent to this address unless you specify otherwise.)

☐ We wish to purchase units in Legal & General Gilt Unit Trust to the value of £ _____ (minimum £1,000).

To take advantage of the special launch discount of 1%, my cheque made payable to Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Ltd is enclosed.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

(In the case of a joint investment, all owners must sign.)

☐ I/we would like distributions of income to be reinvested automatically. Unless this box is ticked, income will be sent to you half yearly.

Legal & General

New Gilt Unit Trust.

Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Ltd is a subsidiary of Legal & General Group Ltd. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TF. Registered in England No. 1009418. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

FRAMLINGTON
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rate of return
19.7%

The investment aim of Framlington Capital Trust is capital growth combined with an average but rising income.

During the ten years to 31st December, when the offer price of units was 60.8p, the net rate of return was 19.7 per cent per annum.

The rate of return of a fund takes into account both capital growth and income. It is the annual compound growth rate, with net income reinvested over a period. Capital Trust's 19.7% rate of return would have turned £1,000 ten years ago into £28,058 on 31st December. The average rate of return for other General Unit Trusts was 10.1% for Building Societies 7.7% for National Savings 7.0% for Bank Deposit Accounts 5.5% (Source: Financial Savings). The average inflation rate over the period was 13.5%.

In terms of capital growth alone, by 1st April the offer price of units had risen 300 per cent since the fund was launched on 31st January 1969, compared with a rise of 71.4 per cent in the FT All Share Index. The managers will continue to aim for long term capital growth with average but rising income by investing mainly in UK smaller companies.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Investment in a unit trust should be regarded as long term.

To invest, use the coupon or telephone us on 01-628 5181.

On 1st April the offer price of units was 60.8p x d. (Accumulation units 70.2p). The estimated gross yield was 4.9 per cent.

To: Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ. (minimum £500) in FRAMLINGTON CAPITAL TRUST. (For accumulation units in which income is re-invested, tick here) and enclose a cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited. I am aware of 18.

Units are allocated at the price ruling on receipt; the number bought will be rounded up to the next whole unit.

Please send information about Monthly Savings (min. £10) to: Surname Mr/Mrs/Miss (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Full First Names _____ Address _____

Signature _____ (First applicants should all sign and give details separately.) T4/4

Investor's week

Shares maintain their carefree climb

Eminent men in the Confederation of British Industry and elsewhere warned us that industry is sliding even deeper into recession. No fewer than 364 economists, nearly one for every day of the year, castigated the Government for piling Wall Street bombed and our own stock market, tripped light headily, possibly right headedly, and some say fantastically, from peak to peak.

Sensible men shook their heads at the way the FT All Share index of 750 shares, replete with well loved oils and financials, climbed into unexplored territory. They gaped at the FT index of 30 stocks, stuffed with stricken manufacturers and now the market's recovery darlings, springing from £21.3 to £38.6, and they wondered at the way it gave every sign of brazenly kicking open the door marked 58.6 and dated May 4, 1979.

You may object that in the stock market sensible men are sometimes stupid. But when you come down to it, they have a point when they say that the explanation that the market is overlooking a dismal 1981 for companies is a cheat. Why does the market look no further than the end of its nose at the bottom of one of its cycles and up to a year ahead at its peak?

Let us look at the question from the other end of the telescope: what is going to bring the market down? Not, I suspect, gilt-edged. There is no shifting the expectation of cheaper money and, with longer

dated gilts still yielding 13 per cent, and annual inflation going down to 8 per cent, government stocks remain expensive. As they grow dearer, equities become cheaper.

But there could be a technical correction. Striking civil servants have stopped the Government from collecting hundreds of millions in taxes. This uncollected money has in all probability found its way to the stock market.

If this lack of collection goes on for much longer, the Government could be forced to dump unwieldy lumps of gilt-edged or index-linked stock.

Another brake, and one almost certain to be applied, is a spate of cash calls from companies whose finance directors can hardly believe their eyes that their shares are riding so high. There are other companies to take over and even capital spending to pay for.

Rights issue money has suddenly become very cheap. Next week in particular, should be interesting. Individuals will then be free of gains tax for another year. They will be tempted to take handsome profits.

None of these arguments, it seems to me, adds up to more than a hiccup. The one argument I do respect, without taking it on board—yet, is that the market anticipates the moment of fastest profits growth between nine months and a year ahead. If so, the toast is set in June and go away.

PW

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Rises				
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
362p	288p	Guardian RE	16p to 360p	Good prelim figs
336p	230p	Hawker Sidd	20p to 324p	Prelims April 15
204p	159p	Lucas Inds	20p to 202p	Recovery hopes
88p	64p	Northern Eng	10p to 88p	Nuclear power order
248p	174p	Reckitt & Col	32p to 244p	Prelims please
Falls				
88p	50p	Blue Bird	4p to 50p	Figs disappoint
22p	12p	BPC	3p to 16p	Reconstruction terms
116p	105p	Desoutter	4p to 112p	No int half time loss
20p	7p	Dupont	2p to 10p	Reconstruction
263p	19p	Weir Group	5p to 20p	Fin package

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PREMIUMS
LIKE
THESE,
SHOULDN'T
YOU BE
ONE OF OUR
CLIENTS?

Type of policy	Family Income Benefits	Convertible Term
Sum assured	£2,500 (annual benefit)	£25,000
Term	15 year	15 year
Age next birthday	Male, 25	Male, 30
Annual premium (gross)	£16.80	£28.00
* (net)	£14.28	£23.80

* Assuming life assurance premium relief at 15%.

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